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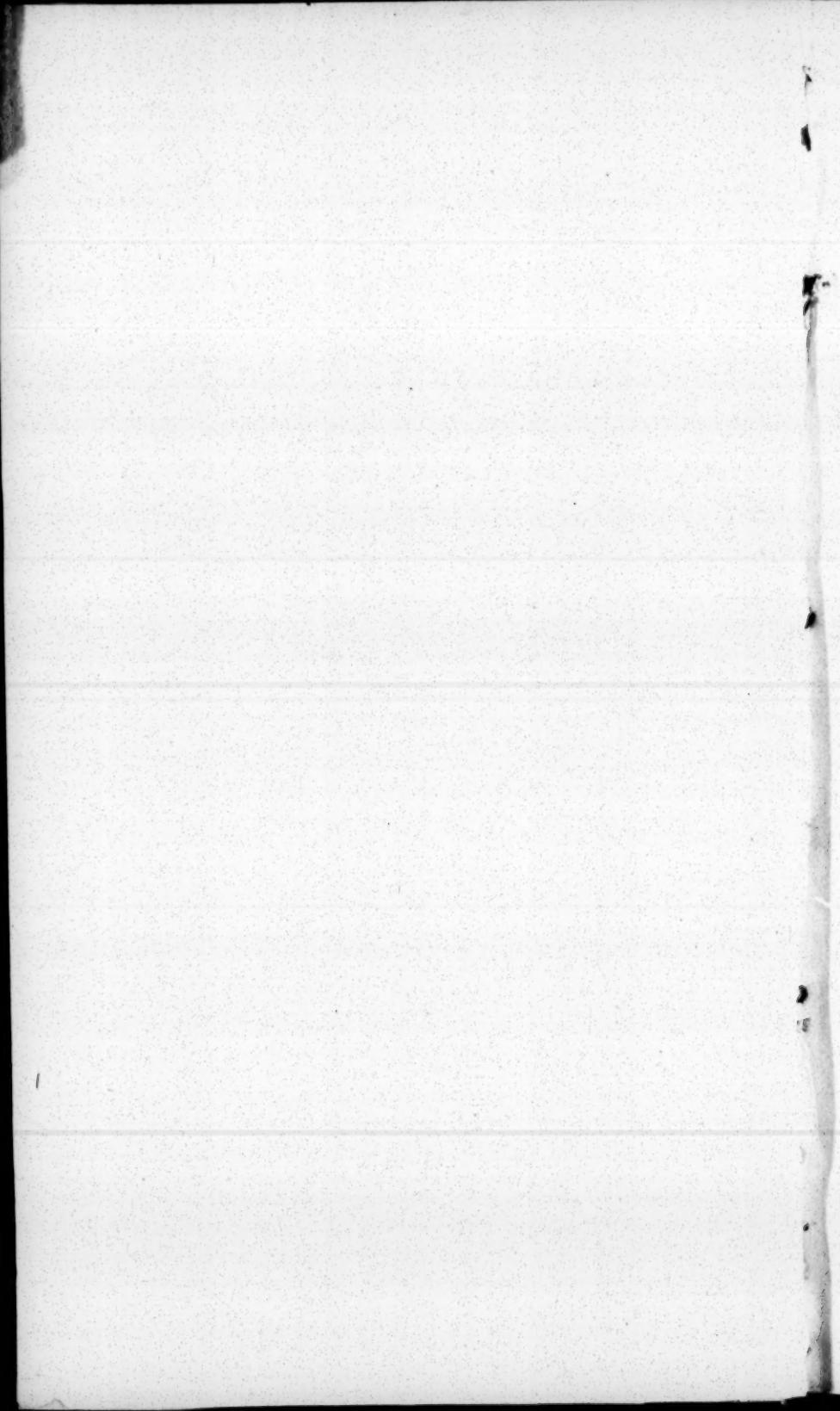
OR,

MEMOIRS

OF

A PRIVATE FAMILY.

VOL. III.



DESTINATION:

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MEMOIRS

OF

A PRIVATE FAMILY.

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AUTHOR OF "THE OLD ENGLISH BARON," &c. &c.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.



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M E M O I R S
O F
A PRIVATE FAMILY.

WHEN I had finished my letter I asked Mr. Ashford for his opinion of the young men's conduct.

He said, "I am pleased with them " both ; but it seems to me, that there is " something wrong in Arthur's seducing " away the company's servant." — " Dear sir, it was the young man that " seduced him, if engaging his com- " passion deserve to be called so." — " It will bear a question, William ; I

"shall consider the case before I decide upon it; but I am pleased with his candour and moderation towards Tom Ashford, who is a good lad, and deserves my approbation." My companions applauded and admired Arthur's character. We separately consulted Mr. Ashford on our respective situations. Eastwick was urgent for his marriage; he pleaded with his mistress, who at length complied and agreed to be married at Christmas; W. Ashford and I promised to be present.

Eastwick talked with George Ashford, and reproached him with his coolness and indifference towards his sister. Honest George told him frankly, that he had a previous regard for Miss Patty Bartlett, and he had a better right to be angry with him; but, setting aside Miss Patty, he liked Miss Eastwick as well

well as any other woman ; and as Mr. Ashford favoured the match, he was ready and willing to fulfil the engagement whenever he pleased.

Eastwick fired up.—“ Sir,” said he,
“ you are not obliged to marry my
“ sister ; and I should be sorry to give
“ her to a man who only likes her as
“ well as any other woman, and who cares
“ not whether he marries at all.”—
“ Sir,” said George, “ you have no
“ right to be angry with me. You know
“ my situation ; it is my duty to Mr.
“ Ashford to abide with him, and to
“ have no will but his ; I would say so
“ to Miss Eastwick if she were present ;
“ and perhaps she may find me as good
“ a husband as those who make more
“ professions ; for I intend to fulfil all
“ the duties which I shall take upon
“ me.”

Eastwick cooled at once ; he laughed.
“ If my sister will accept so cold a lover,
“ I shall not make objections ; but
“ women love to be courted ; and she
“ thinks you very backward, I assure
“ you.”

“ Sir, it is my intention to ask leave
“ of Mr. Ashford to return home with
“ you to visit Miss Eastwick ; and I still
“ intend it, unless you forbid me.”

“ Not I, sir ; do as you think pro-
“ per.”

Eastwick recited this scene to me, and laughed at it ; I was more serious.
“ I give credit to George, and believe
“ he will make a better husband than
“ those who make more professions.
“ You ought to allow for him, who
“ have taken away from him the only
“ girl he could have liked better than
“ your sister.” I seconded George’s petition to Mr. Ashford, and advised
him

him to pay more court to his mistress. Mr. Ashford told me, that he had lately purchased a farm of fifty acres, which he intended for George, and hoped to have some more land added to it: "But "this," said he, "must be purchased "with part of his wife's fortune."

"Do you intend that George should "leave you, sir, when he marries, and "settle in this farm?"

"No, William; I cannot spare him. "I intend that he shall occupy this "farm on his own account. He shall "put in an overlooker and his wife to "govern the servants and inspect the "inside work of the dairy and family. "George shall pay me an easy rent "for the farm, but I shall not give it "him till after my death. He and his "wife shall be my overlookers in the "mean time, and they shall be laying "by something every year. This

“ estate is to be sold at my death, but
“ I wish it may be to one of my chil-
“ dren; I hope Arthur may buy it, and,
“ when he returns home, he may per-
“ haps inhabit it. It would give me
“ pleasure to think he might look his
“ brother Isaac in the face with an
“ equal or perhaps superior fortune.
“ Do you tell him so, William; I leave
“ it in charge to you.”

“ Dear sir, I hope you will live to
“ see him here; pray do not sadden
“ my heart with this prospect.”

“ You know my wish, and that is
“ enough. I shall divide my fortune
“ between my four children in such pro-
“ portions as seem right to me.”

“ Equally, I hope, sir. You see that
“ both Arthur and myself are amply
“ provided for, and that the Ashfords
“ are in far more need of your bounty;

“ I am

" I am sure I can answer for my cousin
" and myself."

" Leave that to me, William ; I will
" consider of it. When George is
" married, I shall settle my affairs, and
" then make a final disposal of my pro-
" perty. No more of this subject at
" present. I shall give you a piece of
" fine chintz and a shawl, which I de-
" sire you will present to your bride,
" and I hope she will wear them
" on her wedding-day. I shall add
" some muslins for yourself; give her
" my blessing, and let me hear when
" you are married."

" Restrain your bounty, sir ; you are
" too generous."

" What right have you, William,
" to clip the wings of my bounty ? Be
" silent on the subject, or I shall think
" you correct me as one not compe-
" tent to judge for myself. Shall I not

“ give a wedding-garment to my
“ children? Yes, I will; I shall give
“ one to your sister Patty, and one to
“ George’s wife also.”

“ Dear sir, I beg your pardon for
“ my impertinence.”

“ Have I not told you I have plenty
“ of good things by me. I gave Mrs.
“ Stanmore a piece for a gown, a shawl,
“ and some muslin, as Arthur ordered
“ me; but her chintz and shawl were
“ of the most inferior kinds.

“ You smile, William; I understand
“ the reproof. She will lock them up
“ in a drawer, take them out once
“ a-year and look at them, but make
“ no other use of them. When Isaac
“ marries, I will give his wife a dress,
“ and, if I live long enough, I will dis-
“ pose of the rest.”

“ God preserve your life to a late period,
“ for the sake of many who will miss
“ your

" your good offices, and those who love
" you!"—" As it pleases Him best ; I
" I am equally willing to go or stay."

Our friends came in from their walk and put an end to our conference. Mr. Eastwick called upon me to fix a day for our return, and named the following Monday, which completed our week. Mr. Ashford did not urge us to stay longer, knowing we were all in pursuit of business of importance preparatory to our establishment. Mr. Eastwick and G. Ashford set out on horseback, James Wilmot and I in a post-chaise for Cambridge, where we stayed three days. I shewed Mr. Wilmot every thing worth seeing, settled my accounts there, and took leave of my friends. Thence we went to Haverill, where I employed an eminent lawyer to draw up the marriage-articles between Miss Wilmot and me: by which I settled

her whole fortune upon her and the heirs of her body. In case she should not have any, she was to have a right to dispose of it ; and I should have the same right to dispose of what was mine. I wrote here to Mr. Castleton and Miss Wilmot, giving them notice of our return the following week. As we journeyed, James urged me to promise him another excursion before I should go to my own house.

I told him this depended entirely on Louisa's will and pleasure ; if she made no objection I would do so ; that I thought we could not stay at Mr. Castleton's after our marriage ; we should be too near the hall. Beside we ought not to be long burdensome to Castleton ; I knew his generous spirit too well to think he would accept of a pecuniary gratification ; but I should study for an acknowledgment of his favours,

favours, though I must ever lie under unreturnable obligations.

My heart beat with impatience as I drew near the village which held its best treasure. When I approached the house I saw Mr. Castleton, and Louisa leaning upon his arm ; I could not wait till the steps of the chaise were let down, but sprung out of it. Louisa ran into the house, I found my welcome in the arms of my friend ; but I soon freed myself and flew to my Louisa. " Why " do you shun me now, my love ? I " will no longer be kept at distance." I embraced her with ardour, and she received me

" With coy submission, modest pride,
" And sweet reluctant amorous delay."

After the first emotions were over, I related all that had passed during my absence. James Wilmot expressed his happiness in joyful accents ; he inquired

after the family at the hall ; Mr. Castleton said there had been a quarrel between the 'squire and his mother. " I
" was called in to make it up. The
" servants had made the breach by re-
" porting what each said of the other.
" I took the opportunity of clearing the
" house of them all, which pleased the
" 'squire better than the old lady. I
" hope they will be better served, for
" I think it cannot well be worse. I
" think Mr. Wilmot drinks more than
" ever. I have warned him of the con-
" sequences, but to no purpose. He
" wishes for Mr. James's return, and I
" hope he will see him as soon as pos-
" sible."

" I will wait on him after dinner," said James ; " and perhaps I shall find
" him asleep in his elbow-chair."

" We must do our duty, sir, with-
" out waiting till others do theirs.

" Your

“ Your brother loves you, and you
“ ought, for every reason, to preserve
“ your influence with him.”

We dined together comfortably ; afterwards James reluctantly left us, and went to the hall.

After he was gone I urged Louisa to hasten the day of our marriage, saying, “ We have nothing to wait for ; ” Louisa, smiling, said, “ This is the man “ who was so lately afraid to speak to “ me ; see how finely his spirits are “ got up since that time ? ”

“ Stop awhile,” said Mr. Castleton, “ there is something to be done first. “ You, sir, must settle Miss Wilmot’s “ fortune upon her and her heirs for “ ever.”

“ Stop you awhile, sir, till I step up
“ stairs ? ”

I ran up and brought down the marriage articles : “ Read this parchment,
“ sir,

" sir, and consider what objection you
" can make to its contents. If you
" have none shew them to Miss Wil-
" mot, and if she approve them send
" an attorney, and let them be executed
" without delay." He retired to read
them, and then I presented to Miss
Wilmot Mr. Ashford's wedding gar-
ment and his blessing, urging her to
confirm it by her own speedily. Mr.
Castleton returned as soon as he had
read the articles. " You are a noble
" fellow, Bartlett," said he ; " but I
" think, in a certain case, you should be
" entitled to the interest for your life."
" Hush, my dear sir, I desire that to be
" dependent on my own behaviour and
" the lady's generosity." — " It is necef-
" sary that you should read it, madam,"
said Castleton, " before you sign it," giv-
ing it to her. " Let it be another time,"
said

said I, "and let not another word be said upon the subject."

"I leave every thing of this kind to Mr. Castleton," said Miss Wilmot, "and am sure he will do what is right."

— "You may trust this man in every thing," said Mr. Castleton; "he will do more than I should ask of him. I will send for an attorney to-morrow and execute this writing, and then the parson will do his office."

The next day Miss Wilmot read the articles. When I saw her she thanked me for my generosity, but made the same objection that Mr. Castleton had done; I insisted on their being executed in the present state, and begged her to name an early day for the marriage-ceremony.

She evaded the subject and talked as if it were past.—She told me she had written to Mrs. Ellis, her aunt's upper servant,

servant, to engage her for herself, and asked if I had any objection. " Dear " madam, do you think it possible that " I should interfere in your province ; " surely all the servants will be of your " choosing now and always."

I told her of the alterations that were making in my house, and that I hoped we might go there at Christmas.

James Wilmot came to us in the evening ; he was full of spirits, and wanted to know our day. Mr. Castleton took upon him to name the next Monday. Louisa said she would not abide by his nomination. James said, " I " will try to make you laugh. My mother " has been very inquisitive when Louisa " is to leave Mr. Castleton ; I answered, " When she goes to a house of her " own." — " And pray when is that to " be ? " — " Why, when she marries. " You may believe that she has had
" several

“several offers.” — “What kind of
“offers, I have a right to know?” —
“A lawyer and a parson, madam.” —
“A parson! What, Castleton I sup-
“pose?” — “You may suppose so if
“you please.” — “A fine offer indeed;
“and will she marry that old frump?
“I would go myself and forbid it.” —
“You forget that Louisa is of the age
“the law requires, and may marry
“whom she pleases.”

My dear Fanny cried out: “Pray,
“mamma, make yourself easy, I am sure
“my sister will not do wrong.” — “Oh
“I dare say you will answer for her;
“and you will soon think *yourself* in-
“dependent of me.”

“Remember,” said James, “that
“your unkindness drove your daughter
“from her paternal dwelling; she
“sought an asylum with a worthy man,
“who received her into his protection;
“and

“ and if she shewed gratitude to him
“ for doing what was your duty to
“ do, you have no right to complain,
“ for it is all your own doing.”

“ Never any woman had such children
“ as I have,” said she ; “ all of them
“ think themselves qualified to teach
“ me.” She wept or seemed to do so.
“ Tell me truth, James, is Louisa really
“ going to be married to Castleton?”—
“ Not that I know of,” I only said ; “ if
“ she be, you have no right to complain.
“ All that I know is, that she talks as
“ if she should soon have a house of
“ her own.”—“ That she may have
“ without being married; but pray
“ inquire what she is doing, and let me
“ know?”—Not I indeed, madam ; in-
“ quire for yourself.”

“ She began to abuse me ; I made my
“ escape, left her in a high fidget, and
“ the squire fast asleep.”

“ You

" You have then given her cause of suspicion that something is going forward here that she is not informed of. " I think you had better not have raised " her curiosity," said Mr. Castleton.— " Pho," said James ; " let her amuse herself with conjectures, so long as she is put upon a wrong scent." Louisa blamed him for behaving disrespectfully to his mother. I did so likewise ; and we all begged him to be more prudent and more dutiful towards her.

James changed the subject ; he asked if I would let him go on an excursion after we were married.

" Recollect what I have said on that subject," said I. He then told his sister, that I had promised to obey her in all things, and therefore he must ask her permission to go.—" You must do yet more," said I. " You must ask her to give us her company, or else I shall not go, I assure you.

" I shall

"I shall ask you, sir," said Louisa,
"to carry me to London for a week, to
"furnish myself with necessaries?"—"It
"will be my pride and my pleasure to
"attend you there, and everywhere
"that you like to go madam; but will
"it be agreeable to you to give James
"a little excursion afterwards?"—"I
"can have no objection, sir; I am
"obliged to you for your kind attention
"to my brother, and I hope he will con-
"form to your wishes in all things."

"I find I am to be left alone," said
Mr. Castleton, "and am to stand in
the gap for you with Mrs. Wilmot
and the 'squire; but I shall expect you
all to come here before you go to
your own home."

"I wish, dear sir, you would come
"and live near us, for we shall not be
"quite happy without your company."
—"Aye, but that is among your im-
"possibi-

"possibilities."—"Perhaps not, sir; I
"will study to bring it to pass."

James stayed the evening with us, and we obliged him to return home by eleven o'clock.

The following day the attorney came, and the marriage articles were executed. On Sunday James came home with us from church; he drank tea with us, but we sent him home to supper; Mr. Castleton whispered him to be with us to breakfast early the next morning.

On Monday September 3d, 17—I received the first blessing of my life at the altar.—Mr. Castleton sent for a gentleman, his friend, to be a witness of our marriage, but himself performed the ceremony, and James Wilmot gave his sister away.—There was that fulness of joy which is above the power of words to express, but no external shew or parade.—We sent James home, enjoining

ing him silence, till we were set out on our journey. We sent for a post-chaise from the next town, but did not set out till after dinner.

My bride paid her acknowledgments to Mr. Castleton, and thanked him for all his good offices. "I have lived
"upon you, sir, for several months;
"you must accept this trifle, not as
"returning your favours, but only as a
"small acknowledgment that you may
"not be too great a loser." I then
came forward with another note of the
same value, fifty pounds. "My obliga-
tions are unreturnable, sir; but you
do not refuse the dues of your office
to any man; it shall be the study of
my life to shew my gratitude to you." The good man embraced us; he wept over us; he said his blessing and his prayers should follow us everywhere, and when we were settled he would visit us.

us. We left him in tears, with his hands lifted up. We went as far as Rumford, where we slept that night, and got to London by dinner-time the next day. We took lodgings for a week, in which time Louisa and I bought what was proper for our situation in life. I carried her to all the places of entertainment that were open, and offered to stay as long as she pleased, but she would not prolong her stay beyond our week. "It is my
" wish, sir," said she, "to have a happy
" home, and I shall not care how seldom
" I go from it."

" You will like to visit your friends,
" my love ; while you are young is the
" time for it, and they will visit us in
" return. We will draw a small circle
" around us, and find our own happiness
" with them."—" I think, with con-
" cern, on my dear Fanny's situation;
" I wish to have her with me; but I will

"not encourage her to leave her
"mother, nor yet to behave disre-
"spectfully to her, whatever may be
"her treatment of her."—"I hope she
"will come round and be our friend;
"in that case Miss Fanny will be our
"visitor of course."—"I dare not
"promise myself that will happen."—
"I shall make an effort at our return,
"and I do not despair."

I wrote to all my friends from London, to acquaint them with my happiness. I desired Mr. Eastwick to look after Mr. R. Bartlett, and make him keep to his time. I should give him a motive to hasten him; for that as soon as I was in possession of my own house, I should attend to the celebration of two more weddings. I ordered furniture for the new apartments, and some for other parts of the house, and insisted on Louisa's

Louisa's giving her own directions for every thing.

I proposed to take another week to shew my dear wife the fine villas in the environs of the capital, and to go home a different way. She said, if it was agreeable to me she should make no objection, but desired I would not do it merely to oblige her.—“I purpose,” said she, “to make reason and duty my guides; take care that you do not spoil me by false indulgence. You smile at me, but it is common for husbands to be too indulgent in the first months of their marriage, and too arbitrary afterwards: remember I have warned you?”

I reproved her for her warning, and rallied her on her knowledge of the married state and the conduct of husbands, saying, I should remind her of her warning. She frequently expressed

a wish to be on good terms with her family.

I wrote a letter to her eldest brother. In it I set forth my pretensions to a woman of good family and fortune, and mentioned my own fortune and my expectations, Louisa's situation, her mother's treatment of her, her prudent conduct in residing near them with a gentleman of Mr. Castleton's respectable character, Mr. Markland's impertinent behaviour, and her right to choose for herself: finally, I expressed the wishes of us both to live upon terms of friendship with himself and family. I shewed the letter to Louisa, and asked her opinion. She approved it highly, and I sent it to the post. I wrote also to Mr. Castleton, telling him what I had done, and desiring him to second our wishes; I also told him that we had enlarged our furlough, and should be with him the

the latter end of the week. I wrote a few lines to brother James, desiring him to be in readiness to take a journey with us, and that we purposed to go to the northward.

Our friends rejoiced at our return. James Wilmot met us near half a mile before we turned out of the road to go down to the parsonage. He opened the door, jumped into the chaise and welcomed us in raptures. "I have missed you, I cannot tell you how much," said he; "but you shall not serve me so again; I will go with you, live with you, and die with you."

Louisa inquired after the family at the hall.—"Very well in health," said he, "if well in disposition.—Oh! sir, you cannot think how the tables are turned! Your letter has done wonders; the 'squire is sure you are a gentleman by your behaviour to him,

"and huffs the old lady for her treatment of Louisa. He told her, she could never live well with any body long, and if she did not govern her temper better, she would do well to look out for a house to herself, and he would look out for another house-keeper. This hint has made the old lady quiet and peaceable, and I am willing to believe she will receive you kindly."

Louisa reproved him for speaking so disrespectfully of her and to her.—" 'Tis no matter," said he, " I shall soon leave the hall ; I would not live there for the whole estate."

He prated on till the chaise stopped. Mr. Castleton was at the door to receive us, and cordially bid us welcome. James would fain have staid the evening, but we thought it best that he should return home, and give notice of

our

our arrival. I charged him with my respects to the 'squire, and that I should wait on him very soon; our united duty to Mrs. Wilmot, and hoped she would receive us as her son and daughter. James was very loth to leave us, though for so short a time.

The next morning I went to the hall. Louisa would have accompanied me, but I thought it best that I should endeavour to make the way smooth for her.—The 'squire received me with civility and kindness.—He wished me all happiness in my marriage. He bade the servant tell his mistress that a gentleman desired to see her. She sent word that she was busy and could not come. The 'squire sent James to ask her to come down; I thought his persuasions were not very delicate: she came not, however, and I went away without seeing her.

Mr. Wilmot invited our trio party to dine with him on the morrow; he said, if his mother were not disposed to behave as she ought, she might dine in her own room, but he would be master in his own house.

When I made the report of my visit and invitation, Louisa begged she might be excused. I said, it was my opinion, that we ought both to go. "I have certainly gained ground in your brother's favour, and it would be wrong to hazard the losing it by declining his civilities. If it is not very disagreeable to you, I beg you, my dearest, to give me your company?" — "If you insist upon it, sir, I will." — "Ask Mr. Castleton what is his opinion?" — "Mine is entirely with you, sir, and I will go with you." — She complied reluctantly with our wishes, and we went to the hall the next day.

The

The servant was stationed at the hall door to receive us and conduct us into the drawing-room, and we were not treated like ordinary guests. Mr. James came to us immediately, and soon after Miss Fanny. She ran into Louisa's arms, but could not express her joy otherwise than by tears. Louisa was affected, but Mr. Castleton tried to jest it away. "Don't weep, dear Miss Fanny," said he, "because your sister is married, you need not despair of it in your turn."

Fanny affected to be angry at the reproof, and we laughed off the reproof, and turned it into congratulation; I saluted Fanny, and begged her to acknowledge me for her brother, and to treat me as such. She said her sister's husband must be always dear to her.

James told us there had been a warm altercation between the 'squire and his mother ; and that the former would probably tell us of it.

While he was speaking Mr. Wilmot entered the room : his countenance shewed anger but just suppressed.—“ You are welcome, my dear friends,” said he ; “ I am very glad to see you all.”—He saluted his sister affectionately, and shook hands with us all.—We returned his salutes and wished him as happily married. He shook his head, and said, “ he did not think that would add to his happiness ; not that he had much to brag of now.”—We were soon after called to dinner. The 'squire sat himself down at the head of the table ; Louisa was seated at his left hand, and he bade me sit next her. He placed Mr. Castleton on the other side, leaving a chair empty between them. “ I expect

"peet another lady," said he, "and I
"leave this place vacant whether she
"comes or not." James and Fanny
sat at the bottom of the table. Mr.
Castleton said grace, and the 'squire be-
gan to help us. The door was opened,
and in came Mrs. Wilmot, her colour
heightened, and her eyes swelled with
weeping. "Where am I to be seated?"
said she angrily..

"Here, madam, is a place reserved
"for you," said her son.—"Ridi-
"culous!" said she; "a man at the
"head of the table!"—"At the head
"of my own table," said he; "it is my
"right, and I shall take it from this time
"forward. Sit down, madam, and let me
"help you to fin." She sat down, but
she neither ate nor spake more; she held
her handkerchief to her eyes and wept.

We all rose up at her entrance, but
the 'squire bade us sit down, and eat
our dinner in comfort.

He did the honours of the table very well, and appeared to more advantage than I had ever seen him.

He called for wine, and drank, “ Many and happy meetings. Now, madam, if you really desire to oblige your son, drink to all this good company ; bring wine here ?” He gave the glass into her hand, she took it and bowed round the table ; she drank it at several sips. She had another shower of tears afterwards. Her son persuaded her to taste a bit of turkey ; she drank another glass of wine, and then the clouds began to disperse, and she left off weeping, but looked sullen and gloomy.

After we had drank our wine, the ’squire led her into the drawing-room. Louisa bent her knee and asked her mother’s blessing. “ Remember what you have promised me,” said the

'squire ; " if you do not perform it, I
" will do what I promised you."

Mrs. Wilmot saluted Louisa with apparent reluctance ; I saluted her, perhaps with equal reluctance ; we sat down and drank our tea and coffee ; the 'squire called for more wine. Mr. Castleton remonstrated, and, in a flattering manner, besought him not to destroy a good understanding, but preserve it for his own benefit and that of others. " And
" what say you, Bartlett ; won't you
" give me a rap o' the knuckles on
" the same side ? "

" I say that it is a pity you should
" cloud your reason ; but, beside, you
" deprive your friends of your com-
" pany."

" Well, I believe you are right, but
" I set out wrong, and I cannot break
" myself of a bad custom."

" That is a fair confession, sir," said Mr. Castleton ; " I will not despair of your reformation."

" What can a man do in a dull day, and without company ? A man without employment, who loves not reading, cannot be happy." — " Go more into company, and make for yourself some pursuit or study."

" Aye, tell me what that shall be, sirs ?"

" Study agriculture ; cultivate your own lands."

" Why so I do ; but it is by proxy."

" Take some ingenious young man into your house ; let him read to you, write for you, and shew you the way to employ your time profitably."

" Well, I will think of it, Castleton, and you shall advise me."

" Let me leave one consideration upon your mind, sir ;—an idle man never was

" was a happy one; — and another,
" there are no true pleasures but those
" which will bear reflection." — " You
" are my parish-priest, and have a right
" to school me; but you have said
" enough for this time."

" I have done, sir; you have taken
" my lesson handsomely. I have hopes
" of you from your behaviour this day."
We then spoke of our intended journey
at James's desire. The 'squire said,
" I confess that James is very much
" improved since he kept your com-
" pany; I cannot refuse my consent to
" his going with you, but I shall want
" his company in the mean time."

" I will look out for a companion
" for you, sir."

" Do so, Castleton, and I shall be
" obliged to you."

We kept up a tolerable kind of
conversation; only Mrs. Wilmot was
silent

silent and sullen. We motioned to go home, but Mrs. Wilmot would not hear of it. We stayed supper, and with difficulty got away before twelve o'clock. Mr. Castleton invited all the family to dine with him. Mrs. Wilmot went out of the room as we were taking leave; we begged Mr. Wilmot to use his influence with her;—“I will,” said he; “but you will be happier without “her.”—“If I may take so great a “liberty, I think it would be happier “for you if you were so,” said Castle-
ton.—“Upon my soul I believe it truly. “I will think of it. Good night, my “friends, I will wait on you next Fri-
“day.” We took our leave and went home.

We expressed ourselves pleased with the 'squire's behaviour. Mr. Castleton said, “I have little hope of him; but I “really think he would be better with-
“out

" out his mother ; I will make one more
" effort to save him, however."

On Friday Mr. Wilmot came, attended by Mr. James and Miss Fanny ; the old lady would not come. We spent a social day and evening together.

The 'squire made his sister a present of a very good diamond pin, which had been long in the family. He gave me a bank note of a hundred pounds value ; another of the same to James for his journey. He then asked Mr. Castleton if we had indemnified him for his expences on our account. He assured him that we had, and refused any further consideration. We took leave of each other affectionately, and they departed.

Mr. Castleton recommended an ingenious young man to be the 'squire's companion, and gave him directions for his

his behaviour. Mrs. Wilmot withstood his coming, saying, "There shall be no more mischief-makers here."—
" You say there shall be no more mischief-makers here," said the 'squire,
" and so say I. I will banish the greatest of them all. So, madam, be pleased to provide yourself with a house or a lodging by next Christmas;
" for I shall want all this for myself."—
" You cannot be in earnest, Reginald," said she.

" So much so, that if you do not leave it, I will."

" Then every thing will go to rack and ruin!"

" I shall try if I can prevent it, and whether it is possible to manage this house worse than you have done."

She burst into tears, and he went out of the house.

James.

James told us these particulars the next day.

On Monday we set out on the northern tour.

We went through Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire; we staid a week at the city of York. Thence into Westmoreland and to the Lakes. I made James keep a journal of our travels and remarks. I wrote to all our friends, and expected their answers at Ludlow in Shropshire.

Eastwick wrote me word that Robert Bartlett refused to purchase the school fixtures at my agent's appraisement; and that he thought he expected them to be given; I answered that he should not have them at any price.

We went through Gloucestershire, and then through part of Somersetshire, and into the road to Oxford.

From.

From this place I wrote to Eastwick, and waited for his answer. He wrote, that Robert was disposed to give me as much trouble as was in his power. That he declared he would not quit the house till the day before Christmas ; and that he talked of removing some of the goods, which he said belonged to him. He asked whether I had not an inventory of the goods and furniture. I answered his letter immediately. I told him I had placed my inventory and the catalogue of the books in Mr. Ashford's hands ; that I would write to him directly, and desire they might be sent to him, and he would use them for my service. As for the rest, fortunate and happy as I was, I would not suffer myself to be made uneasy by the ingratitude and unworthiness of my sister's husband ; that I was only concerned for his sake,

as

as it would oblige us to delay his marriage a month longer than I had intended, but hoped he would have patience.

I shewed my companions all the curiosities of Oxford; I carried them to Blenheim, to Woodstock, and all the places worth seeing in the neighbourhood of it. At my return to Oxford I found another letter from Eastwick, in which Robert Bartlett was not spared. He invited me to his own house till mine should be left by the intruder who was still master of it, and said, he waited for the inventories, that he might use them. He told me that he had been applied to by a man of good character, who, hearing of Mr. Bartlett's removal, was desirous to open a school in the parish. That he was looking out for a house for that purpose, but that he wished for my approbation and encouragement. That he should be glad to purchase

purchase the school fixtures, and whatever else Mr. Bartlett might choose to dispose of. I answered this letter, giving Eastwick power to treat with this man, and call in the agent I had employed. I informed Mr. Eastwick that I should set out for London in a few days, and directed him to write to me there.

I told James Wilmot he must return to his brother's for a time, but as soon as I was settled in my own house, I should send for him to share my blessings. He was unwilling to return thither, fearing his mother's temper and his brother's humours. I said it was his duty to bear with both, and, as a minor, he ought to submit to their direction. He staid one week with us in London, and then left us reluctantly.

I carried my wife to the places of entertainment, till she desired me to let her spend her evenings at home; for that

that she had more satisfaction in my company alone than in public places; that she longed for a home of her own, and thought the time long till she could enjoy it.

The more I knew of her the more I loved and esteemed her; her qualities improved upon me daily, and I prayed that I might be worthy of her. During my compelled residence in London, I initiated her into the study of natural history, and our evenings were chiefly devoted to this charming amusement; Louisa was delighted with it, and got forward faster than I could have believed. When the days were fine we walked, and sometimes took airings in the environs, but our evenings were spent at home.

The first week in December I received another letter from Eastwick urging me to come home directly.

• I find

' I find that I am no match for your
' brother-in-law,' said he ; ' he dis-
' putes his ground inch by inch. His
' school breaks up next week, and he
' does not speak of removing. I have
' received the inventories, but he will
' not suffer me to use them.

' Make no scruples about coming to
' my house. Are you not my friend,
' and my brother; and as welcome as
' myself? My sister has set the house
' in its best order to receive you and
' your lady; and I expect in your answer
' to this you will fix the day of your
' coming to us.'

I answered this letter the next post, promising to be with him on the 16th, the usual day of the school breaking up. We arrived there in the evening of the day, and found Eastwick looking out for us. " You are truly welcome," said he ; " I am in distress how to act, but
" your

“ your coming will make all things
“ easy.” He welcomed my wife, and
introduced her to his sister, who received
her cordially. As we sat at tea he told
us all that had happened. “ The boys
“ went away yesterday. Mrs. Bartlett
“ and the children went this morning in
“ a covered cart, with the nursery-maid
“ and the house-maid. The cook-maid,
“ who has lived in the house twelve
“ years, begged of me to let her stay,
“ and to recommend her to you, as
“ being desirous to be retained as your
“ servant.

“ My sister has engaged a house-
“ maid that she hopes will suit Mrs.
“ Bartlett, at least she will be useful till
“ your household is settled.”—I thanked
them for their kind attentions; “ but
“ what, my dear friend, can have
“ created new difficulties?”

“ Why,

“ Why, sir, I sent to Mr. Martin,
“ whom you employed as your agent,
“ and we went to the house to compare
“ the inventories, but Mr. Bartlett re-
“ fused us admission. He said, when
“ you came over he should settle with
“ you; but that no interlopers should
“ come between him and you. Second-
“ ly, he refused to let the workmen
“ come into the house till after Christ-
“ mas-day: thirdly, he is packing up
“ goods, which I am doubtful whether
“ he has any right to remove, and
“ taking down the scholars' beds; and
“ the cook, who knows your right in
“ them, gives me this information for
“ your service.”

“ Thank you, sir, for this intelli-
“ gence. We will go over to-morrow
“ morning and settle these points; will
“ you have the goodness to send for
“ Mr.

“ Mr. Martin to-night, and we will
“ take his advice and assistance. I wish
“ to finish this business amicably.”

The next morning after breakfast we went to my house ; I desired that a servant of Eastwick’s might attend us. In the outward yard was a broad-wheeled waggon half loaded, and many packages ready to put into it; two men were loading the goods. I called out in a louder voice than usual, “ Stop there, what are you doing ? I forbid you at your peril to pack up any more goods, and to carry them off these premises ! This is my house ; these are my goods ; I forbid you to touch them at your peril !”

The men said, what they did was by Mr. Bartlett’s order.—I said, “ Tell Mr. Bartlett what I have said to you, and bid him come hither to me ?”

He came in a few minutes, his countenance struggling with anger and confusion, yet striving to assume a smoothness. "What is your pleasure with "me, sir?"

"It is my pleasure, sir, to take possession of my own house, and to hinder "the goods (which are mine also) "from being carried away without my "consent or knowledge."

"Dear sir, it was not my intention "to carry them away without paying "you the value of them."

"How can that be, when you refused "to take them at this gentleman's "valuation?"

"I thought his valuation too high, "sir, but I always intended to pay you "the value of them."

"At whose valuation, sir? — your "own I suppose."

"To

"To settle it, sir, between you and
"me."

"I understand you, sir, better than
"you think I do :—I sent you word you
"should not have them at any price."

"You did so, sir, but I thought you
"would alter your mind."

"I understand you there also.—Who
"gave you authority to send away the
"scholars' beds and furniture ? at whose
"valuation were they sent away ?—Sir,
"I know you too well, and I despise
"you too much to contend with you.—
"The law shall decide between us."

"Sir, I am willing to take the school
"fixtures at your friend's valuation, and
"the beds also."

"Sir, you shall not have them at any
"man's valuation. I am in treaty with
"a gentleman who is coming to open
"a school in this parish, and who offers
"to take all that I choose to dispose of

“ at Mr. Martin’s valuation; without
“ distrusting his honesty or mine.”

“ Sir, I thought you promised to give
“ me the preference ?”

“ I did so, and you refused it at an
“ impartial valuation. You refused to
“ let my agents use the inventories.—
“ Sir, I have done with you once and
“ for ever.—Let your men remove my
“ goods at your peril.—I have here the
“ inventories, and whatever is missing
“ the law shall oblige you to restore.—
“ I have told you my intentions, which
“ I shall put into effect. I shall go
“ over the house, and compare the
“ goods with the inventories.”

“ Sir, you are very severe with your
“ sister’s husband.”

“ No, sir; I was inclined to do him
“ more than justice.—Are you here
“ alone, sir?—Where is your wife and
“ family?”

“ They

“ They are removed, sir; they went
“ away yesterday.”

“ How did they go? — Tell me
“ truly.”

“ They went in a carriage, my wife
“ and children.”

“ In what sort of a carriage, sir?”—
He was silent.

“ In a covered cart,” said Eastwick,
laughing.

“ Is this true, sir, is it possible?

“ Yes, it is true,” said Eastwick,
“ wife, children, and servants.”

Robert bit his lip, but said nothing.

I said, “ It is like the mean and
“ sordid spirit of the man whom the
“ poor girl made her husband. I am
“ ashamed to call him my relation; but as
“ it cannot now be helped, let us say no
“ more of it.”—“ Shall we go over the
“ house, sir?” said Mr. Martin. “ Yes,
“ I will go with you, sir; come, East-
“ wick.”

We went over the new building, and hastened the workmen. I thought it too late to run over the inventories that day, but left word we should come again on the morrow. We left the men employed in unpacking the waggon and carrying back the goods.

The next morning I sent Eastwick's servant to the house to see what was going forward there, and to tell Mr. R. Bartlett that I would be with him after breakfast. He returned in half an hour, and came directly into the parlour, where we were sitting at breakfast. He bowed and grinned and bowed again. "What news Jack?" said his master, "you seem mightily pleased!"

"Yes, sir, I am pleased, sure enough; but I am forbidden to tell you why. There is a certain person who begs leave to tell you the good news herself."

"Who

"Who is that, John?" said I; "tell me quickly."

"It is Mary Mullins the cook; she would come with me."

"Bring her in," said I, "directly."

John went out and led her in. She curtseyed twenty times and wished me joy as often. "God bless you, sir, and send you many happy years!"

"I thank you, Mary; but what news have you for me?"

"Why, sir, I have the pleasure to tell you that you are master of your own house."

"Great news indeed, Mary! I knew that already."

"No, sir, I make bold to say you did not. Mr. Bartlett went away but two hours ago."

"Is he indeed gone, Mary? that is welcome news."

"I thought so, sir; he went away on horseback, and Dick, his boy, went

“ after him in a light cart. There was
“ some trunks and boxes in it, but I
“ saved a great box that I knew was full
“ of sheets and table-linen, which I
“ was sure you must want.”

“ I thank you, Mary; that is good
“ news indeed.”

“ Sir, my cousin, James Mullins, was
“ there, and he would not let the box
“ be carried away, and I told the man
“ I would send for you directly. I
“ have got it locked up in the store-
“ room safe enough.”

“ Good girl! — Mary, I must give
“ you a retaining fee; you are now my
“ servant, and that lady is your mistress.”

“ God Almighty bless her; she looks
“ like an angel!”

“ She is my good angel. She has blessed
“ me, and she will be a blessing to all
“ that belong to me.”

Louisa

Louisa held out her hand to Mary, who blessed her with tears in her eyes.
“ You come well recommended to me,
“ Mary, by your duty and attachment
“ to your master, I will be your good
“ mistress and friend.”

“ Now,” said I, “ let us think on
“ business. Hasten home and get helps,
“ and let the house be thoroughly cleaned
“ as soon as possible ; I will direct you
“ to put it in order, and I will soon
“ follow you.”

She went away blessing and praying for us. Mr. Martin came a few minutes after, and we went to the house.

We went over the inventories and found many things wanting, and others put into different places, which made it very difficult to go through the business, and I supposed it was done on purpose to puzzle us.

I had ordered a part of the new furniture to be sent to Mr. Martin's. I now gave directions that the best parlour, the dining-parlour, and the best chamber should be newly furnished ; and the old furniture should be removed into other rooms. I ordered Mr. Martin to send workmen to put all things in order, and to get the house ready to receive us.

I would not suffer Louisa to see the house before it was put in order, being very anxious that she should like it well enough to wish to continue in it. Eastwick was as impatient as myself to see things got ready for us, and was daily urging me to write to Mr. Ashford, and beg him to bring or send over his wards, and to hasten the weddings.

It was my wish to get into the house before Christmas-day, that I might celebrate it as my dear father did ; and I was so happy as to do so. I invited all the former dependants on the family, and

and most of the poor who took no relief from the parish.

Eastwick and his sister dined with us and two more worthy neighbours, who knew and loved my family; we spent a happy day, and rejoiced as Christians.

I had the inexpressible pleasure of finding my house was not disagreeable to my dear wife, and that the new apartment would make it all that she wished it to be. The next week I wrote to Mr. Ashford, urging him to come with his children, and complete their happiness. He promised to come in ten days after the date of his letter. My sister was to be at my house with himself. George Ashford was to be at Eastwick's.

Our joyful congratulations were renewed by their arrival, and my wife and my sister were mutually pleased with each other. Our common friend shared the

happiness of us all, and we were together every day.

On the eighteenth of January our weddings were solemnized. The feast was at my house. In the evening Patty went home with her husband; George Ashford and his wife remained with me a week afterwards.

Mr. Ashford was charmed with my wife, who paid him the same attentions as if he had been her father. That worthy man now shewed me his last letters from India. Stanmore had sent another remittance to him, with a good account of himself and family.

Tom Ashford had forwarded a remittance of a thousand pounds to put his brother into business, and a parcel of muslins. "I shall use the money," said he, "to buy the pieces of land I told you of, and add them to George's farm. He

" will

"will set out handsomely, and I trust
"will do well."

We spent a week of festivity and social happiness, and the following one Mr. Ashford, with George and his wife, returned home. Mrs. Bartlett's house-keeper came to us, our household was settled and regulated, and was excellently conducted by its charming mistress.

I began now to feel myself at home, and to enjoy my own happiness, which was beyond my merit and expectations. The finishing the apartment amused my leisure hours. The upper room was made a library, a Venetian window at the upper end, which shewed a fine prospect of a navigable river, and rising hills beyond it.

The next room I fitted up for a tea-room, or, occasionally as a bed-room. I put a bookcase - bedstead into it, and good furniture. — I also made a

neat

MEMOIRS OF

neat bed-room with a large closet, and many conveniences for James Wilmot: as soon as his apartment was ready for him, I wrote to him, inviting him to come and take possession of it, and I received the following answer within the week :

‘ Dear friend and brother,

‘ Your letter of invitation has given
‘ me inexpressible pleasure; for I began
‘ to fear you had altered your opinion
‘ and forgotten your promise of taking
‘ me under your protection; this I
‘ should have thought a great mis-
‘ fortune to me, for I am heartily tired
‘ of my present residence, which is
‘ daily more uncomfortable. My mo-
‘ ther and brother have had continual
‘ quarrels and reconciliations. My mo-
‘ ther set her face against young Hartley,
‘ my brother’s companion, but bro-
‘ ther

‘ ther stood by him, till lately that he
‘ has got another favourite.

‘ There came a swearing swaggering
‘ fellow on a visit to Mr. Dalby’s of
‘ our village. He was dressed in regi-
‘ mentals, and talked of the wars he
‘ had seen, and the battles he had been
‘ in, and bragged of his courage and his
‘ conduct, as if he was another Alex-
‘ ander. He sung warlike songs, and
‘ told stories, and drank plenty of wine
‘ at other men’s expence:—He told us
‘ he was the best company when he was
‘ half-seas-over.

‘ The squire was invited to meet him,
‘ and told that he was an excellent com-
‘ panion. He liked him but too well,
‘ and invited him to return the visit.
‘ They now see each other every day,
‘ and get fairly drunk together. The
‘ old one likes this beast much better
‘ than modest Mr. Hartley, and has per-
‘ suaded

‘ suaded the ’squire to dismiss him.
‘ Mr. Castleton has remonstrated, but to
‘ no purpose. She is restored to his
‘ favour, and things go on worse than
‘ ever, and Mr. Burdock is the chief
‘ favourite. Mr. Castleton bids me tell
‘ you that this fellow has undone all
‘ that he and you have been doing, and
‘ that he has no longer any hopes of Mr.
‘ Wilmot’s reformation.

‘ I hope to be with you early in the
‘ next week. Fanny unites with me in
‘ affection to you both, and I am your
‘ most affectionate brother,

‘ JAMES WILMOT.

My wife wrote immediately to James,
desiring him to use all his influence with
his mother, to let Fanny come with him
to visit us; to ask for a month's stay,
and, if that could not be obtained, for a
less time. They came to us the follow-
ing

ing week, and the sisters rejoiced in each other's company. "I was obliged," said James, "to use the influence of the 'squire, or the old one would not have let her come; but he insisted on it. "He sends his love to you both, and bids me tell you that he will stand godfather to your first child."

I wrote to my sister Sarah to desire her company, wishing that she might see and rejoice in my happiness, and also in that of our sister Martha. I said, "You cannot be ignorant that your husband has forfeited my esteem and regard. I have a charge that I can bring forward against him, which would expose him to general contempt, and put him to much expence beside; but I keep it in reserve, and only hold the rod over him in hopes that it will keep him from doing worse. My affection to you is entire as ever.

"I long

‘ I long to see you, and I have a right
‘ to ask for your company, having
‘ favoured your husband on your ac-
‘ count in many respects. I shall send
‘ a lawyer to settle my general account
‘ with him, without mentioning the
‘ things wanting as by the inventories,
‘ but reserve them for a future day.

‘ Tell your husband that your journey
‘ shall be no expence to him ; and that
‘ will be an inducement to him to let
‘ you come. My wife unites cordially
‘ in the invitation, and begs you to
‘ bring one or two of your babes with
‘ you. Hasten, my dear Sarah, to your
‘ affectionate brother and sister,

‘ W. and LOUISA BARTLETT.’

R. Bartlett was very unwilling to let his wife come to visit us. She told him that it was not to be at his expence.
“ Did he tell you so ?” said he.—“ Yes,
“ and

“ and he bade me tell you so as an inducement to let me come.”—“ Aye, “ that shews the opinion he has of me ; “ and that is the reason I don’t like “ you should go there ;—they are all my “ enemies, and want to set you against “ me.”—“ Are you not my husband, “ and the father of my children ? who “ should dare to set me against you ? “ But am I then to say I am forbidden “ to visit my family ?”

“ No, madam ; say just what you “ please.”

“ Then I shall certainly go to my “ brother’s ; and, let me tell you, sir, “ that none but yourself can lessen you “ in my opinion ; but it is in your “ power to do it.”

“ And in that of others also ; but do “ as you please.”

“ For this time I will, sir ; and it will “ be the first time.”

She

She repeated this scene to me the day after her arrival. I thanked her for her confidence in me, and gave her all the comfort in my power ; advising her to make the best of her lot, to preserve her husband's esteem above that of all others, and to keep his faults to herself.

We spent a fortnight happily together ; we saw the Eastwicks most days, and Martha assured her of her happiness. Sarah's eldest son was a fine boy just in breeches, and she was now with child of her fourth.

At the end of the fortnight Robert wrote to his wife, and desired her to return home, for he was unhappy without her, and could not spare her longer.

We acknowledged his claim to her company, and she went home three days

days after ; she had endeared herself to my wife, and we parted with her reluctantly.

Fanny had likewise a summons from her mother, and she went home the following week, promising to write frequently and tell us what passed at the hall. She was resolved to stay there no longer than till she came of age ; but four years was a long time to look forward. I had written by the India ships in the spring to Arthur Stanmore, and told him of my happy prospects. I had also written to Tom Ashford, advising him to preserve Arthur's friendship, and to allow for his eccentricities, which were greatly overbalanced by his noble qualities.

Our new schoolmaster came among us. He hired the house where my father first opened a school. Mr. Martin negotiated between us, and I
fold

sold him all the school fixtures and books, and as many beds as I did not want. I ordered Mr. Martin to value them in his favour; I gave him many things of use beside, and promised to send six boys at my own expence.

Mr. Harman proposed an English school only, and to qualify the boys for common trades.

My father had built two new pews in the church, one for his school, the other for his family; that for the family I reserved for myself, the other I lent to Mr. Harman for his scholars, reserving my right in it, if I should want it hereafter.

Mr. Eastwick promised his interest in favour of the school. He shewed me a letter from his sister, which gave him much pleasure. "I must tell you," said he, "that I thought she treated
"George

" George cavalierly, both as a lover
" and a husband, and I gave her a
" serious lecture on the subject before
" she left us; I warned her also that
" she would lose Mr. Ashford's favour,
" if he perceived it. I will now read
" you a passage in her letter:

" ' I am now sensible of my obligation
" to you for the lessons you gave me on
" a certain subject; George is so good
" and so kind-hearted, that I love him
" every day better than the past. I
" venerate Mr. Ashford, and cultivate
" his favour to the utmost of my power,
" I would not offend him for the world.
" I acknowledge myself a happy wo-
" man, and I thank my dear brother
" for all his precautions.' "

I shared my friend's joy in his own
and his sister's happiness; and in that
of all our friends.

In

In the latter end of February, James Wilmot received a letter from his sister Fanny, informing him that his brother had had a fit, supposed of the apoplectic kind : that the physicians thought him in a dangerous way : that he had wished his brother James was there, and she was surprised that her mother had not sent for him : that captain Burdock continued in the house, and took liberties that he had no right to do. She wished James to come over without delay, and take upon him the rights of a brother and the next heir, and turn that intruder out of the house. She then sent her love to her brother and sister Bartlett, and desired them to strengthen James's hands, and to come and assist him, if need should so require.

James went over a few days after ; I desired him to consult Mr. Castleton, and act as he should advise. A few days

days after I received the following letter from James :

‘ Dear Brother,

‘ I think it my duty to tell you all
‘ that passes here. I found my brother
‘ in a very bad state ; his face swelled
‘ and bloated, his body blown up, and
‘ his legs full of water. The doctors
‘ say he is in a dropsy ; some are for
‘ tapping him, and others are for open-
‘ ing his legs ; but they say there is
‘ little hope of his recovery. He lies
‘ in a stupid lethargic way, and when he
‘ is awake he calls for liquor, rum or
‘ brandy and water. That cursed cap-
‘ tain Burdock gives orders here, and
‘ allows him whatever he calls for. My
‘ mother’s behaviour is inexplicable ; I
‘ remonstrate, but she minds me not.
‘ Mr. Castleton desires that you will
‘ come over, and then we will all unite

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‘ together and drive that fellow out of
‘ the house ; come over to us without
‘ delay ; if my sister could come with
‘ you, she would be truly welcome to
‘ her and your brother,

‘ JAMES WILMOT.’

My wife was advancing happily in her pregnancy ; I feared she would meet with many disagreeable things at the hall, and I wished her not to go there ; but I shewed her James's letter, and gave her the option. She declined going, and I was glad of her refusal.

I went over on horseback, and directly to Mr. Castleton's. We sent for James and he came immediately. We consulted together and laid our plan of operations, after which we went to the hall. We did not wait to be announced, but went directly into the squire's chamber. We found Mrs. Wilmot sitting

sitting on one side the bed and Burdock on the other, with a glass of liquor in his hand. I took no notice of either of them, but went to the squire and took his hand, saying, "I am very sorry, " dear sir, to hear from James so bad "an account of your health, and to see "it confirmed." He turned his head towards me, and said, "Bad enough, " Bartlett ! I am glad to see you here."—"I thank you, sir ; I am come to offer "you my best services."—"That is "kind of you ; but all is over with "me."—"I hope not, sir : see your "friends, and discard your enemies !"—"I think," said Burdock, "we should "send for the doctors, that these "gentlemen may hear their opinion."—"And who gave you, sir, a right to "command here ?"—"I am Mr. Wil- "mot's friend, sir ; I have a right."—"No, sir, you are not his friend ; you

“ are giving him poison.”—“ ‘Tis a
“ damned lie, sir.” Mr. Castleton
spoke: “ No, ‘tis a sacred truth, sir !
“ it is that liquor that has destroyed
“ him ; and if I were his brother I would
“ prosecute you for it.”

“ Is this the behaviour of gentlemen ? ”
said Burdock. I went to Mr. Wilmot;
“ Tell me, dear sir, have you given that
“ fellow a right to command here ? ”—
“ No, sir,” said he, “ he takes too great
“ liberties ; he has been here too long.
“ Go home, Burdock ! ”—“ Bear wit-
“ ness all of you,” said I; “ go home,
“ Burdock ! ”

“ Mr. Burdock is a gentleman,” said
Mrs. Wilmot; “ and you don’t treat
“ him as such.”

“ He a gentleman ! ” said Castleton ;
“ Mr. Dalby has told me what sort of a
“ gentleman he is. He is a vagrant,
“ a vagabond, who, having spent what
“ little

"little he had, lives upon others.
"Dalby ought to be ashamed of what
"he owned to me, that he shifted him
"off to Mr. Wilmot, because he was
"tired of his company."

Burdock swore he would not be turned out of the house like a dog, after being invited to come there.

"You were not invited to make it
"your home, sir," said I; "and had
"you half a grain of modesty, you
"would not have stayed till the master
"of it bade you go home."

James Wilmot went out of the room, called a servant, and bade him show that gentleman the way out.

Burdock went away, swearing revenge against us all. Mrs. Wilmot wept and sobbed, saying she never saw such behaviour to a gentleman before.

“ You had better be silent, madam ;
“ you have given that man power to
“ act as he has done ; you have suffered
“ him to destroy the health of your
“ son by inches. You are a bad mo-
“ ther and a bad manager ; none who
“ have any regard for Mr. Wilmot can
“ have any for you.”

That poor creature lay stupified, only now and then saying a few words :—
“ Bartlett, pray for me !—James, do
“ you order every thing. Castleton,
“ you must bury me. James, you are
“ my heir !”

We sent for the doctors, and Castleton recommended a nurse. Mrs. Wilmot was told, that if she made any opposition she should be obliged to leave the house.

The doctors said little ; they ordered some cordial medicines, and told us, there was little to be done for him.

I went

I went home with Castleton ; James stayed at the hall. The old lady began to flatter him, perceiving he would soon be master of the house. Mr. Castleton advised him, after his brother's death, to shut up the house, and not return to it for some years.

James came to us about noon the next day. He told us he had been upon the watch, lest that vile fellow Burdock should carry away more than his own : that a man had been to fetch away his trunk. "I had locked up," said he, "the room where he slept, "and kept the key. When the messenger came, I went with him and "sent away his trunk.

"I found in a drawer in the room a "parchment to this effect: 'That this "codicil was to be accepted as part of "the will of Reginald Wilmot esquire.' "In it was mentioned an annuity on all

"the estates of R. Wilmot of two hundred pounds per annum on Hugh Burdock esquire, and also a legacy of a thousand pounds. To his mother Hester Wilmot a legacy of two thousand pounds. To her servant Hannah Meares an annuity of thirty pounds per annum. There were other legacies named, but not specified. None of them were executed, but only drawn up."

James brought this parchment and gave it to Mr. Castleton's care, desiring him to keep it safely. He said his brother continued much the same: that he called frequently for brandy and water, but the nurse gave him milk and water with only a little spirit in it. We advised him to keep in the way, and to suffer no dangerous visitors to approach him.

On

On the third day after my arrival Reginald had another fit, which left him very weak and lethargic. He continued dozing three days more, and then went off in a third fit the night following.

I wrote to my wife an account of all that had passed, and that I should stay till the funeral was over.

James kept people upon the watch, for Burdock made two attempts to visit the squire, but was hindered both times, and was told that the next time he should be shewn the way into the horse-pond. Mrs. Wilmot was desired to provide a lodging for herself, for the house would be shut up after the funeral.

Mrs. Wilmot affected grief for her son's death, but the servants dropped many words of a contrary meaning. She tried all her art upon James, to let

her continue in the house, but he positively refused it.

She invited him to live there, and let her be his housekeeper ; finding him resolute against it, she desired to hire the house and be his tenant. He was resolved to the contrary.

The house would take harm by being shut up.

The harm would be to him and not to her.

Who would occupy the farm ? was that to lie fallow ?

He should think of that, and consult his friends.

Who was so near a friend as his mother ?

He had others whose advice he preferred to hers.

She persuaded, remonstrated, threatened ; it was all one.

How long would he permit her to stay there?

One month, and no longer on any account.

The funeral was decent, but not ostentatious. James begged me to stay till the house was shut up. I wrote again to my wife, and accounted for my detention. She sent an answer, inclosing a letter from Mr. Ashford, informing me, that the incumbent of the living was dead; that he had sent over a lawyer to offer a consideration for the next term, or otherwise to purchase the advowson, advising me to be ordained as soon as possible, and be prepared to receive it.

It was with some difficulty that we prevailed on Mrs. Wilmot to quit the house, but she did at last. She hired a house in a market-town and removed there. I got acquainted with young

Hartley ; I found him sensible, modest, and ingenious. I engaged him in my service, and made him James's companion. I took him home with us, and found him useful to me on many occasions. I prevailed on the bishop of the diocese to give me a private ordination, and prepared myself for the discharge of my office.

I was impatient to be at my dear and happy home, and my wife was not much less so. She received us with pleasure and pain ; her benign eyes dropt tears for her brother Reginald, but she pointed a warning to James, who promised to remember the fate of Reginald, and to avoid bad company and private drinking. I advised him to go a journey to the West with Hartley as his companion, excusing myself as unwilling to leave my wife at this time. I had not been at home more than a fortnight before

before Mr. Ashford called me away on account of the living which he was treating for on my account. I went to him immediately, and he explained his intentions.

“ I shall present you to the next turn
“ of the living,” said he, “ but not the
“ advowson. I shall do what is best for
“ you at present, and leave what remains
“ to hereafter. You may now be in-
“ ducted to the living. I am the patron,
“ and you the incumbent; Mr. Mansel,
“ my lawyer, shall go with you, and see
“ all things done properly.”

In the early part of my life I related Mr. Ashford's generosity to my father in obtaining a living for him. At my father's death, that living was presented to a gentleman, the friend of our family, as I was not in orders, and could not receive it: he offered to resign it to me as soon as I should be in a situation to accept

accept it, but I refused it for reasons of conscience. As soon as my other business was settled, I negotiated for an exchange between this gentleman and Mr. Castleton, that I might bring him into my neighbourhood. The proposal was acceptable to both of them, and it was done soon after to my great satisfaction.

Thus I was settled in all points to my heart's wishes; and, to complete my happiness, my dear wife brought me a son within the year after our marriage.

James Wilmot came home to the baptism, and insisted that the child should be called after him: he was, therefore, called James Wilmot; Mr. Castleton was the other sponsor, and Mrs. Eastwick the godmother.

Three months after the birth of my son my sister gave Mr. Eastwick a daughter, and soon after George Ashford's wife brought him a son. We
all

all rejoiced and congratulated each other, and answered for each other's children.

My sister Sarah brought forth another daughter; she had four children, two of each sex.

After her recovery she wrote to me, giving me her confidence, as I had often desired her to do.—She told me that Robert, who was always very penurious, was grown much more so since his removal, and that he grudged the necessaries for her and her children. As soon as he could scrape together a hundred pounds, he sent it up to his agent in London to purchase stock, and left himself with a scanty sum to maintain the family. “When I lived in your “house,” said she, “I maintained my “children out of the farm; they lived “on milk and vegetables; I sometimes “sold a part of the butter and eggs, “and

“ and bought them necessary clothing;
“ but now I cannot get milk sufficient
“ for my family, and he grudges money
“ for the most necessary articles.

“ You have often desired me to tell
“ you the particulars of my situation;
“ but I was loth to injure my husband
“ in your opinion; I am now convinced
“ that I shall not do so, for you think of
“ him as he deserves you should.
“ During my last lying-in he grudged
“ me those things which are necessary
“ in that situation, and I then resolved
“ to let you know my difficulties, and
“ to accept the assistance you had so
“ generously offered.”

I wrote in answer that she should hear from me shortly. I sent over an attorney of character to settle with Mr. Bartlett for me; he had paid me nothing for two years past. He now made excuses and begged a longer delay,

lay, otherwise he must sell out of the stocks.

"Perhaps, sir," said my agent, "that may be the case whenever you are called upon, but that will not do; you must name a day and keep it, otherwise I am ordered to proceed against you as the law directs."

Robert fought his ground inch by inch. He asked for three months time, then two, then one. I expected it, and ordered my agent, in case no money could be got, to pay to Mrs. Bartlett privately a bank note of twenty pounds. He offered it, but she begged him to give her cash for it, for if it was sent out to be changed, her husband would get knowledge of it, and then he would lay hands upon the whole.

He paid her in cash in the course of the day, and she gave him a letter, in which she made me the most grateful acknow-

acknowledgments. I was as thankful on my part that I was empowered to relieve my sister, but I had the most perfect contempt for her husband.

As I was walking over my grounds one morning before breakfast, I saw a post-chaise going to the house; I ran round and met it at the gate. I opened the door, and Fanny Wilmot jumped into my arms.—“ Will you take me and “ my servant into your house?” — “ You wrong me to doubt it,” I replied.—“ Then lead me to my sister, “ and I will tell you why I ask your “ protection.”

I led her into the parlour where Mrs. Bartlett was expecting me to breakfast. Fanny ran to her and embraced her, and we both welcomed her sincerely. “ I rejoice to see my dear Fanny here, “ whatever may be the cause that brings “ her.”

“ The

"The cause, the cause?—I will tell
"you as soon as I am able."—She
paused.—"My mother,"—she burst
into tears,—"my mother is married!"

"Married, to whom?"—“Cannot
“you guess?”—“No.”—“To that
“vile fellow, Burdock.”—“Impos-
“ble!”—“She was married six days
“ago, but she did not declare it till
“yesterday; she presented him to me
“at breakfast, saying, this gentleman is
“your father, Fanny.—He offered to
“salute me, but I pushed him from me.
“You may have made this man your
“husband, madam, but you cannot
“make him my father; I refuse to ac-
“knowledge him for such, or to live
“in the house with him.”

"Oh, you have profited by the ex-
"ample of your sister! but I shall try
"whether you shall carry all your points
"like her."

"I shall

“ I shall try also, madam, but I shall
“ leave you to your own reflections, and
“ to enjoy the worthy choice you have
“ made.—I ran out of the room and
“ into my own chamber. She sent for
“ me to breakfast. I sent word that I
“ wanted no other breakfast than what
“ she had given me.—I had taken a
“ servant to myself when we removed
“ from the hall.—I sent her into the
“ town to hire a post-chaise for me,
“ but not to come to the house.—I had
“ time to prepare for my departure.—I
“ made Sarah pack up my clothes and
“ linen, and her own also.—My mo-
“ ther sent to me to come down to
“ dinner, I thought it best to go, that
“ she might not suspect my intention.—
“ She received me with smiles and
“ fawning, thanked me for coming
“ down to dinner, promised to do every
“ thing in her power to make me
“ happy,

“ happy, and was sure I would do the
“ same to make her so.—Burdock was
“ all complaisance to me.—I said little,
“ but ate my dinner as usual.—They
“ drank my health and invited me to
“ drink with them.—I drank two glasses
“ after dinner; I bowed but said no-
“ thing.—I then retired to my own
“ apartment.—I sent Sarah for a porter,
“ and he carried our trunks to the inn.
“ —When I went down to tea, I saw
“ a tall awkward young man, who I was
“ told was Burdock’s nephew.—I war-
“ rant, thought I, this *thing* is to make
“ love to me. You smile, sir; I know
“ your meaning; but it was proper
“ I should suspect their designs, that
“ I might be on my guard against them.”

“ True, sister Fanny, but you reply
“ to my thoughts without knowing
“ them. Proceed in your story, my
“ dear.”

“ I went

“ I went down to supper, they would
“ fain have detained me afterwards, but
“ I would retire early.—I watched till
“ I heard them all go up stairs, for the
“ young man slept there, which confirm-
“ ed my suspicions.—I ordered Sarah to
“ make a feigned confidence with the
“ cook, and to ask her to let her out of
“ doors when the family were gone to
“ bed, saying, she should spend the night
“ with a friend, and not want to come
“ home before the doors were opened the
“ next day.—All things being prepared, I
“ went out first and waited at the corner
“ of the street till Sarah came to me.—
“ I thought the time long till she came.
“ —‘ We are fairly locked out,’ said she,
“ ‘ and must now seek our fortune.’—We
“ went to the inn and got into the post-
“ chaise; we went as far as the postillion
“ would carry us, and were obliged to
“ sleep on the road; as soon as it was
“ light

" light we proceeded on our journey ;
" we came late last night to J——h,
" and being unwilling to disturb your
" family we slept there. In the morn-
" ing we set forward again, and here I
" am at your service."

" Now I understand clearly," said Louisa, " the meaning of Mr. Burdock's attentions to my mother, and of her politeness to him ; yet I could not have believed that she would have descended so low."

" Human nature is inexplicable," said I ; " we cannot fully comprehend it.— But what is done cannot be undone ; since they are married, we must make the best of it."—" But what is to be done for our sister ?" said Louisa. " She is under age, and I believe under her mother's authority."—" She is of age to choose her own guardian, and her mother's

“ mother’s marriage will give a sufficient
“ excuse for it.”

“ Then, sir, I shall choose you cer-
“ tainly.”

“ We will consult a gentleman learned
“ in the law, and he shall advise us how
“ to proceed; in the mean time make
“ yourself happy here, and be assured
“ you are as welcome as ourselves.”

“ I shall think myself happy in your
“ protection.”

Louisa was concerned for her mother’s misconduct, and that Burdock was rewarded for his intrusion into the family, and his treatment of Reginald Wilmot.

Mrs. Wilmot’s jointure was five hundred pounds a-year; she had lived with her son ten years (for poor Reginald was but one-and-thirty), and had saved

saved the greatest part of her income ; she had fifteen hundred pounds in the funds, and a handsome sum in her coffers beside, and was a fine mark for Mr. Burdock to aim at.

She had governed her husband and her son, though the latter had shaken off the reins of her authority. She intended to govern Burdock also, but in this she mistook her reckoning. He coaxed her at first, till he got knowledge of the extent of her riches, and then assumed the government himself, and made her submit to his authority.

He drank great quantities of wine, for it was not a little that would stupify him, yet he was carried to bed almost every night too far gone to walk thither.

He had been an adventurer all his life, but this last stroke gave him a snug birth for the remainder of his days.

He wrote to me a few days after Fanny's departure, protesting his great regard for the Wilmot family; desiring to be upon terms of friendship with them; requesting Miss Fanny to return to her mother, who loved her dearly, and assuring her, that both of them would do every thing to make her happy.

To which I wrote the following answer:

‘ The family of Wilmot think of Mr.
‘ Burdock as they ought to do—as of
‘ an obscure and worthless adventurer,
‘ who has intruded himself into the
‘ family—who by encouraging Regi-
‘ nald Wilmot in his vice of habitual
‘ intoxication hastened his death—who
‘ has alienated the affections of their
‘ mother from her children, to fix
‘ them upon his worthless self—who has
‘ made her and her fortune his prey.—
‘ Does Mr. Burdock expect to be
‘ thanked

‘ thanked and honoured for these actions by the Wilmot family?—Miss Wilmot will not sanction her mother’s conduct, by acknowledging her husband as her protector.—If Mr. or Mrs. Burdock give her any trouble she will apply to the lord chancellor, and request him to appoint her a guardian during her minority.—The only way by which Mr. Burdock can recommend himself to the Wilmot family, is by shewing his gratitude to the woman who has bestowed herself and fortune upon him, by leaving off his vices, and shewing by his future behaviour his pretensions to the character of a gentleman.

(Signed)

‘ JAMES and FRANCES WILMOT.

‘ WILLIAM and LOUISA BARTLETT.’

I copied this letter, and sent it to James Wilmot; he answered it and ex-

pressed the most entire satisfaction. He promised to come to us the following week. He was enraged at his mother's conduct; and it was with difficulty that we restrained him from affronting Burdock; but time and good advice restored him to reason.

He had a desire to go to the Continent, and to see France, Italy, and some parts of Germany. He invited me to go with him, and begged me to prevail on his sisters also.

Mrs. Bartlett could not be prevailed on to leave her infant, but she persuaded me to go to Holland with him, and Fanny would be her companion the meantime.

I had the good fortune to engage a gentleman of character and ability to be his governor. I engaged Hartley to take the care of my farm, and to be my steward.

I went

I went with my friends to Holland, where I stayed two months, but was impatient to return home again.

I bought a small farm of twenty acres, that lay conveniently near my own estate ; it had a decent cottage upon it, which I left at that time, and which served me afterwards for another purpose.

Mr. and Mrs. Burdock, alarmed by our threatenings, suffered Fanny to remain quietly with us ; and she was a happy addition to our family, being a most amiable young woman.

We had intimations from different persons, that Mrs. Burdock made many complaints of her husband ; that he was a tyrant to her, and she could not command a guinea.

My dear Louisa could not bear that her mother should be reduced to such an uncomfortable situation. She wrote

to a tenant of the family, desiring him to pay to Mrs. Burdock twenty pounds for her own use, telling her who it came from, and she would remit it to him in the way he should point out.

She had an answer from the farmer, and a message from Mrs. Burdock, thanking Mrs. Bartlett for her kindness, which was more than she expected or deserved. This gave us the satisfaction of performing a duty, and of having it properly acknowledged.

In the month of May I received a pacquet from Mr. Ashford, inclosing letters from India to himself, to Samuel Stanmore, and to me. I transcribe that from Arthur to me; those to others were to the same purpose.

‘ARTHUR STANMORE to W. BARTLETT.

‘ Dear William,

‘ I have gone step by step with thee
‘ in thy journey through life; I have
‘ enjoyed

‘ enjoyed all thy fair prospects of fortune
‘ and happiness.

‘ I now call upon thee to share in
‘ my sorrows. I have had six years of
‘ success abroad and happiness at home.
‘ Alas, my scene of life is overcast !
‘ my situation is reversed ! I returned
‘ from my customary journey up the
‘ continent, in full hope and expectation
‘ of a welcome in the arms of a faithful
‘ wife, and in the bosom of my be-
‘ loved children ; I found my Olivia in
‘ a dying state ; my children and servants
‘ lamenting over her. She rejoiced that
‘ I was come in time to receive her last
‘ adieu. She thanked me for all my
‘ affection and kindness to her. She
‘ recommended her children to my
‘ paternal care and protection. She
‘ thanked her uncle Yusuff for his good-
‘ ness to her, and for giving her so dear
‘ a husband. She commended her soul

‘ to Heaven, and expired in my arms.
‘ Her pure soul ascended, and was united
‘ to the great first Principle of all
‘ things, by whatever name he is called;

“ By saint, by savage, and by sage,
“ Jehovah,—Jove,—or Lord.”

‘ I tell thee, William, I am certain
‘ that wherever she is, she is happy ; no
‘ bigot upon earth shall make me doubt
‘ of it, and this belief is my great con-
‘ solation. The torch of love is ex-
‘tinguished in my breast, never more
‘ to be rekindled. The heart, having
‘ lost its chief good, will look around for
‘ its next resource. Friendship remains
‘ to me, and I lay hold on it. I am de-
‘ termined to visit my friends in Eng-
‘ land, and try what comfort I can re-
‘ ceive from their company. I pro-
‘ posed to take my two boys with me,
‘ and to leave my daughter and her
‘ nurse

‘ nurse in the care of my uncle Yusuff ;
‘ but he says he will not take the
‘ charge of any more females of the
‘ mixt breed. He will, however, take
‘ my friend George Hardy into his ser-
‘ vice. He will be my agent here, and
‘ serve me at the same time as my
‘ uncle. He will share my profits, and
‘ will keep open the place till my return.
‘ My servant, the native, will continue
‘ with him, and my faithful Donald will
‘ remain with me.

‘ My daughter’s nurse has lost her
‘ husband ; she and her children shall
‘ be under my protection ; they also
‘ shall come to England with me, and,
‘ in due time, they shall be servants to
‘ my children.

‘ Methinks I feel my spirits revive
‘ already at the thoughts of embracing
‘ my friends. I shall place my children
‘ under thy care ; they shall receive

‘ the benefits of civilization and education.

‘ Tom Ashford has paid me a visit
‘ of condolence ; I take it most kindly,
‘ and am thankful for it.

‘ Tell Samuel Stanmore I reckon
‘ much on embracing him ; remember
‘ me kindly to George Ashford. I have
‘ desired Mr. Ashford to say to old
‘ Stanmore and his amiable wife what
‘ he pleases of me and for me.

‘ I mean to come home in one of
‘ the autumnal ships, but I know not of
‘ what country. I will let thee know
‘ as soon as I arrive in England.

‘ God bless thee, William, and all
‘ those thou lovest, and send us a happy
‘ meeting ! Dear friend, adieu !

‘ ARTHUR STANMORE.’

Tom Ashford's letter thanked me
for reminding him of his duty, and pro-
mised me to wait on Mr. Stanmore,
and

and ask a renewal of his friendship. He added, ‘ As far as I know, he has acted more wisely than any of us, at least if success will justify a man’s conduct. ‘ He has made a fortune rapidly, we are creeping on slowly. I sometimes wish I had shared his undertakings.’

I consulted my wife on the care of Arthur’s children ; I should wish they might be educated with my own, but should they be brought up in my own house, or sent to a school ? My Louisa was desirous to second me in every thing for the advantage of my friend’s children ; the house was large, and they might be well accommodated with us.

I thanked her for her generous kindness ; but I would consider well before I resolved.

The schoolmaster of our parish succeeded moderately well, but there was wanting a master of languages. His

son was an ingenious, promising youth ; I advised the father to put him to a good school, and qualify him to teach the learned languages. I now cast my eye upon this young man as a preceptor to Arthur's children and my own. My wife was now in her second pregnancy, and I was called upon to look forward and prepare for their education.

Mr. Harman was transported at my proposal for his eldest son ; and brought up his second son for his assistant.

I had letters regularly from Mr. Wil-mot and his governor, which assured me of the improvement of James, and the abilities and prudence of the other.

I was fortunate and happy in my situation, and I thought it my duty to assist others who were less so.

I might say with Job : *When the ear heard me, then it blessed me ; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me.*

I was

I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame; I was a father to the poor, and those I knew not I searched out. The respect and love of my dear native village was more valuable to me than the fame of the greatest hero, statesman, or orator, could be to those who possess them.

I employed my time this summer in preparing for the accommodation of my friend and his family. My wife wished they might not arrive till after she should be recovered from her lying-in, and able to superintend and regulate their household.

In September I had a letter from Mr. Stanmore, telling me that himself and family were safely arrived at Amsterdam. That they came over in a Dutch ship, for certain reasons that he would communicate to me in confidence hereafter. That his infant daughter and her nurse

nurse had been much indisposed, and he thought best to give them time to rest and recover from the fatigues of the voyage.

While they remained there, he was determined to see some of the principal towns in Holland, but that he hoped to be in England in a month.

Happily for me, my wife was brought to bed on the third of October; she brought me a second son, whom I called Arthur Stanmore after my friend; and I wrote to let him know that I was ready to meet him as soon as he pleased.

My next letter was dated October ninth, in which he told me his family were arrived in health and safety. That he had taken lodgings in Fenchurch-street, where he was well accommodated. That he had taken a London servant who was recommended by his landlord

landlord as one who knew the ways of the town, and could shew his own servants to go about without losing themselves. Finally, he desired to see me as soon as possible.

I set out the next day, arrived the same night, and wrote to my wife the day following :

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT to his LOUISA.

‘ I am bound by duty and by promise to write frequently and minutely to my dear Louisa, and shall endeavour to make my absence contribute to her entertainment, and bring her acquainted with my friend before she sees him ; she expects an original character. I went as directed to an oilshop in Fenchurch-street. An intelligent servant, who expected me, shewed me into a room, where sat

‘ two

‘ two men in Indian dresses ; they looked
‘ to be middle-aged men, both turned
‘ of forty. One of them saluted me in
‘ the Indian manner. I desired him to
‘ introduce me to Mr. Stanmore. He
‘ came round and embraced me, “ Can
‘ any dress conceal Arthur Stanmore
‘ from his friend and brother William
‘ Bartlett ?” I held him off and gazed
‘ at him earnestly ; I then said, “ The
‘ voice is Jacob’s, but the face and
‘ the beard seem to be those of
‘ Esau, or of some other man.” He
‘ smiled ; “ No, they are only embel-
‘ lished a little. Look here, William !”
‘ He threw back his upper garment,
‘ which was muslin, and shewed me a
‘ kind of vest under it full of small
‘ buttons. In these are concealed a
‘ treasure of great value, which I have
‘ preserved from the dragons of office,
‘ for the service of my children and my
‘ friends.

‘ friends. As to the drapery it has its
‘ uses ; but under it beats the heart of
‘ your friend Arthur, who loves you
‘ most of any man living.’ I embraced
‘ him cordially, but could not presently
‘ trust to my voice ; we both wept for
‘ joy in silence. As soon as Arthur re-
‘ covered his voice, he said, “ How do
‘ all those I love, and all those whom I
‘ ought to love ? ” — “ That is spoken
‘ like my own Arthur ; for if we only
‘ love those who are kind to us, what
‘ reward have we ? Do not even the
‘ Pharisees and publicans so ? ”

“ “ Thank you, William ; the reproof
‘ is in character. How do all my re-
‘ lations and friends ? ”

“ “ All as well as usual, both in health
‘ and manners.”

“ “ Why do I not see my brother
‘ Samuel with you ? ”

“ “ I have

“ “ I have written to him to hold
• himself in readiness to attend you ;
• but I thought it best that he should
• wait awhile, as I supposed you would
• not stay in London.”

“ “ Yes; I have business that will
• detain me here some time.”

“ “ Then I will write to Samuel to
• come to us. Will you not introduce
• me to your children ?”

“ “ Yes, I will introduce them to
• you.” He rang the bell. The ser-
• vant came; he made signs, and the
• children came in with their attend-
• ants.

“ “ Come hither, my blessings !” said
• he ; they ran to him, and he brought
• them to me :—this is Arthur Ashford,
• my first-born ; this is William Bartlett,
• my second ; this is my daughter Olivia,
• and her nurse Bedra,—love them for
• my

‘ my sake.’—“ I do, and will ever
‘ love them. I have two sons who
‘ are my blessings, the youngest is called
‘ Arthur Stanmore ; you must love
‘ them also.” I caressed the children.
‘ The eldest is the fairest, and he re-
‘ sembles his father strongly ; the second
‘ is browner, but none of them are
‘ darker than an Italian. Stanmore
‘ is bronzed over, so that I should not
‘ have known him any where.

‘ He presented to me the man I had
‘ found with him. This is my good
‘ servant Donald Dalziell, he is my
‘ confidential and trusty friend ; but for
‘ him I should not have seen you nor
‘ England again. I took Donald’s
‘ hand, I thanked him for his care of
‘ my kinsman and friend, and said he
‘ had engaged a friend who would am-
‘ ply repay his service and fidelity.

‘ We

‘ We sat down and began to converse
‘ at our ease.

“ “ Do you mean to continue in this
‘ masquerade dress ? ” said I. He smiled,
‘ and made a sign to Donald. He came
‘ round and untied a string, and down
‘ dropped the beard ; he then took off
‘ the turban and shewed his hair, which
‘ had been cut close, and was beginning
‘ to grow again, and to curl as it did
‘ before he went abroad.

“ “ It is now,” said I, “ that I ac-
‘ knowledge my cousin Arthur ; he is
‘ now fully restored to me.” I went
‘ and embraced him ; “ but why do
‘ you continue this disguise ? ”

“ “ For many reasons ; some serious
‘ and some ludicrous.”

“ “ Will you acquaint me with some
‘ of them ? ”

“ “ Yes, I will tell you one of them.
‘ I have a great desire that Isaac Stan-
‘ more

‘ more and his wife should see me in
‘ them, and the young squire Isaac; I
‘ have a wish to surprise them, and to
‘ hear their remarks upon me.’

“ ‘ What end do you propose by it?’
“ ‘ To gratify my own humour, and
‘ to mortify theirs. I will not tell you
‘ more at present. Let us turn over
‘ to another page. Why do you not
‘ speak of your wife?’

“ ‘ Because I would not awaken recol-
‘ lections that—My wife is one of
‘ the best of women; she has all the
‘ active virtues as well as the passive
‘ ones:—I am happy.’—“ I am happy to
‘ hear it.”—“ You are equally kind and
‘ considerate. May God continue your
‘ blessings!”—“ I thank you, my dear
‘ friend.”—“ Will you let your servant
‘ go with mine to take me a lodging near
‘ you?”—“ Take you a lodging? No,
‘ sir,

“ sir, you shall lodge here ; I have provided for your accommodation.”

“ “ I thank you, sir, but you have many to provide for.”

“ “ No more than I can well afford to provide for. Say no more on this subject, or you will offend me.”

“ He caressed the children tenderly, and then sent them and the nurse away. I embraced them also, and desired them to love me. Soon after we were summoned to supper, but first Arthur resumed his beard and his turban.

“ “ After supper we chatted till near twelve o’clock, when we retired to our respective apartments.

“ I rose early this morning, I wrote to Samuel Stanmore, and to Mr. Ashford, I began this to my dear wife,

‘ and wrote till I was called to break-
‘ fast. I will finish it time enough for
‘ the post. Give my love to Fanny,
‘ and tell her she must write the answers
‘ to my letters, for you must not write
‘ at present. Embrace my dear babes
‘ for me, and tell their mother I am all
‘ and only hers, while

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT.’

‘ London, Oct. 13th.

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT to LOUISA
BARTLETT.

‘ Dear Wife of my Soul !

‘ After the first emotions of our
‘ meeting were passed over, we fell into
‘ a state of tranquillity ; talked over old
‘ friends and past times, present and
‘ future hopes. He told me I must
‘ either buy or hire a house for his
‘ family ; but it must be in my own
‘ neighbourhood. I answered, “ Not un-
‘ less

‘ less you purpose to stay in England.
‘ My wife has provided for the accommoda-
‘ tion of your children and ser-
‘ vants. Our children must be edu-
‘ cated together under my eye. When
‘ you come to reside in England as
‘ your home, there then is a house pro-
‘ vided for you, but I leave that to
‘ Mr. Ashford to explain, I must not
‘ encroach upon his province.”—“ I
‘ will hear what the dear old man pro-
‘ poses; but I will have no home for
‘ many years to come. Hear my plan.
‘ I will travel through France, Spain,
‘ and Italy. Then I will go over the
‘ islands in the Mediterranean; those of
‘ the Archipelago; through part of
‘ Turkey to Egypt; through Syria and
‘ Arabia; through Persia and so into
‘ India, and to my late residence. I will
‘ settle my affairs there before I return
‘ again to Europe.”

“ “ Good

“ ‘ Good God, what a scheme ! What !
‘ condemn yourself to be a vagrant all
‘ your life ? ’ — “ Yea, a stranger and a
‘ pilgrim upon earth, as all our fathers
‘ were.” — “ You love your children, you
‘ love your friends, why will you deprive
‘ them and yourself of the blessings of so-
‘ ciety, and banish yourself from your
‘ native country ? ” — “ Oh, I will come
‘ home whenever they have need of me ;
‘ I will come time enough to marry my
‘ daughter to your eldest son, and to
‘ settle my other children in the world.
‘ I will lay my old age in their cradle,
‘ and they shall rock me till I fall
‘ asleep.”

“ ‘ Romantic and eccentric man !
‘ Can you promise yourself that every
‘ thing will fall out as you have planned
‘ it ? ” — “ Yes, I hope it will ; but if I
‘ should drop by the way, I shall leave
‘ upon you the care of settling my

“ children ; and failing you, to my brother Samuel. I shall make my will, and settle every thing before I go abroad again.”

“ “ There was a certain king called Pyrrhus,” said I, “ who laid a plan to conquer all the kingdoms of the world ; he had a friend, which is a rare blessing for a king to have. He led him on step by step to shew the absurdity of his designs, by asking a simple question at the end of every undertaking he proposed. “ What will you do next ? ” said he.

“ “ After he had in idea conquered all the known world. “ What will you do then ? ” said he.

“ “ Why then I will enjoy myself, live in splendor and magnificence, make splendid feasts, build fine palaces, and enjoy every pleasure that life affords.”

“ And

“—“ And what hinders your enjoying them now ?” said his friend.

“ “ Do not answer me just now, kind man; but reflect upon what I have said in another person’s words.”—He paused a minute. Then said, “ I understand you, but it cannot be.—I cannot stay at home.”

“ “ Then wait till time has composed and settled your mind.”—“ I will think of what you have said.—Quit the subject.”

“ He rose and walked about the room in great emotion. “ I ask pardon if I have given you pain!—I have done.”
“ “ No, no, it is truth. I am eccentric—I am unsettled.—You have hurt my weak place,—but it was done in kindness. You see I do not refuse comfort; you see I look forward; I encourage hope.—I seek and pursue it.”

“ While he was walking about, the London servant came in; “ Sir, the

‘ gentlemen are come, shall I shew them up?’ — “ I am glad of it, busines employs and amuses the mind. Shew them up in five minutes.—William, “ here are some strangers coming to me, you will think them strange enough; they are lapidaries and jewellers. They are some Germans, Jews, Flemings, Dutchmen, &c.”

“ I shall be an intruder, perhaps; I will leave you a while.”

“ No, stay a few minutes, and re- turn when you please.”

He rang the bell, and presently came in five men, the strangest looking ones I ever saw. Stanmore assumed a look of dignity and consequence. Donald brought in a box, and the company seated themselves round a table.—I went out and left them to their busines.

I walked

‘ I walked out and was gone above
‘ an hour. When I returned they were
‘ not gone away ; I ordered the servant
‘ to let me know when his master was
‘ alone. He did so, and I found my
‘ cousin sitting by the table, which was
‘ covered with papers and money bags.

“ ‘ You have been a long time away,’
‘ said he ; ‘ I have been doing business
‘ for myself and some other friends in
‘ India. I have been selling stones and
‘ gems, and exchanging them for yellow
‘ earth and white paper. William,
‘ which do you like best, gold or
‘ paper ?’ ”

“ ‘ Equally, as convenient to transact
‘ necessary business. Paper will go into
‘ the least compass.’ ” He put a note
‘ into my hand and held it there. I
‘ would not take it. “ Do you think I
‘ will suffer you to come on my errands
‘ at your own expence ?”

“ ‘ Do you think I would grudge the
‘ expence of a journey to see a friend
‘ less dear than my Arthur ! ’ — “ No
‘ more ! — take the note or I will throw it
‘ into the fire.” — “ You are so absolute,
‘ you terrify me, sir.” — “ Do as I de-
‘ sire you then.—Will you have any
‘ sugar plumbs ? ” — He shewed me a
‘ box of jewels.

“ ‘ No, sir, I wear a remembrance
‘ of yours on my finger.”

“ ‘ I am glad of it ; but I shall one
‘ day see your wife.”

“ He put away the boxes and papers
‘ into a closet.—In the evening of the
‘ day Samuel Stanmore arrived.—There
‘ was a repetition of the scene at my first
‘ arrival, only Samuel was more in-
‘ credulous than I had been, and could
‘ hardly be persuaded to recognize his
‘ brother. He was obliged to take off
‘ his beard and turban as he did before

‘ to

' to me, and at length he was convinced.
 ' Samuel is a good looking young man,
 ' not handsome, but looks good and
 ' amiable ; he wept heartily when he
 ' was assured of the identity of his
 ' brother.—All strong emotions abate,
 ' as after a storm comes a calm. I am
 ' impatient to hear from my love. I
 ' hope this post will bring me a letter.
 ' My love to Fanny. God bless you
 ' and adieu!

' WILLIAM BARTLETT.'

October 20th. (Second letter.)

WILLIAM BARTLETT to his Wife.

' Before I speak of persons or things,
 ' let me thank my dear girls for their
 ' most kind letter :—Louisa would write
 ' a part of it, to shew that she was quite
 ' well.—Take care, oh best beloved of
 ' my soul ! take care of thy precious
 ' health, on which depend the health,

‘ happiness, and even life of thy William Bartlett. I thank my dear Fanny for her care of us both.—We have letters from Lincolnshire, inviting, persuading, and urging us to hasten thither. Mr. Ashford is impatient to see his darling Arthur, and to see and embrace his grandchildren.

“ “ I cannot leave London,” said Arthur, “ till I have finished my business here. I must have another meeting with those queer fellows you saw with me the other day. I have jewels to sell and monies to employ for myself and others. Those lapidaries or stone-cutters know me to be a judge of their value ; and here William is another use of my Indian dress and manners.—If I were to appear to them in a cropt head of hair, and a frock dress, they would try to cheat me ; but in my dignity they respect my knowledge ;

“ knowledge ; however, I will see them again, and finish my business as soon as I can for my dear Mr. Ashford’s sake.”

“ “ He deserves that you should gratify all his wishes.”—“ Well, they shall be gratified.—Samuel, have you a pocket-book ?” — Samuel showed one—“ That is a shabby one, but you shall buy a better. How much does your father allow you yearly ?”

“ “ Thirty pounds, sir.”—“ For all your expences ?”—“ Yes, sir ; but I am rich by your bounty. Mr. Ashford pays me forty pounds a-year, which he says is the interest of a thousand pounds which you gave me three years ago.”

“ “ That is true, my dear boy ; I hope your father does not know that you have this allowance ?”

“ ‘ No, sir, he thinks me a very good
‘ manager.’ ”

“ ‘ That is like him.—Take these
‘ two notes, and buy whatever you have
‘ need of, and do not scruple to call
‘ upon me for more.’ ”

“ ‘ Oh, my dear brother, you are too
‘ generous to me !’ ”

“ ‘ Never think of it, my dear ; what
‘ is the use of wealth, but to gratify our
‘ friends, and provide for them ?’ ”

“ We discussed the subject of gene-
“ rosity for some time, and would have
“ checked the bounty of our friend, but
“ he would not be restrained nor contra-
“ dicted. Two days after the lapidaries
“ came again ; he had a long conference
“ with them, and afterwards a stock-
“ broker attended him, and he placed a
“ large sum in the public funds, and re-
“ turned home to dinner. We spent our
“ evening together in a comfortable way,
“ and

"and I began to speak of our departure
from London.

" " You are in a great hurry to leave
London, sir."

" " Your friends in the country are
impatient to see you, why should you
not shew your desire to see them?"

" " But there are some things to be
discussed and settled first."

" " Then let us discuss and decide
upon them."

" " Well, sir, what would you pro-
pose?"

" " I think our company is too large
for Mr. Ashford to accommodate.
I would therefore propose that your
nurse, and the two young children,
and her own children, with your Indian
youth, should go directly to my house,
where provision is made for their
reception.—That the rest of us should

“ go to Mr. Ashford’s as soon as may be
‘ agreeable to you.”

“ “ I have no great objection to this
‘ disposition of yours.”

“ “ Then let us set about preparing
‘ for it.”

“ “ Well, I am ready to do so when
‘ you please.”—“ Yet still we move slow-
‘ ly, and I am impatient to be gone.”
“ He has ordered an eminent taylor to
‘ bring patterns of cloth, he will have
‘ some suits of clothes made up. We
‘ are to choose them to-morrow morn-
‘ ing. I have spoken to the landlord,
‘ to provide us with a coach for our
‘ journey, and a cart for our goods.
‘ Mr. Stanmore has several boxes of
‘ India goods, which he has paid the cus-
‘ tom for, and thus (in his own words)
‘ bought over again and made them his
‘ own. He has ordered two suits of
‘ clothes for himself, two for Donald,
‘ one

one for Samuel; insisting that they shall appear as gentlemen, and not like pedlars. We are now, I hope, in train for removing to B——, which is one step towards removing homewards. I write to Hartley, to meet the servants and children at Chelmsford, and to conduct them to you. God bless you, and adieu my dear girls.

WILLIAM BARTLETT.

October 29th. (Third letter.)

WILLIAM BARTLETT *to his Wife.*

We are now on our journey to B——; my companions are gone to bed, and I will converse with my Louisa for an hour before I go to rest. Arthur Stanmore has a thousand good qualities; but he is still very eccentric, and not a little obstinate; once, when I opposed him in opinion,

“ he looked serious and said, “ Do not you
“ know that I am somewhat restive, and
“ that I like better to lead than to fol-
“ low ? ” He exclaimed on the manners
“ of London, and yet seemed loth to
“ leave it : the hours were particularly
“ offensive to him. “ I read in the
“ Bible,” said he, “ that God made the
“ sun to rule the day, but the Londoners
“ deny it. They say they are wiser than
“ he who made the sun ; that when he
“ sets, the day begins ; and they lie in
“ bed till noon or after.

“ “ This reversing of hours causes the
“ reversion of manners ; the servants
“ know not when their work is done ;
“ and while the master and mistress are
“ in bed, they are the governors of the
“ family, and they make themselves
“ amends for the trouble and fatigue
“ they undergo in the hours when the
“ family are alive and in a bustle.” — “ I
“ do .

“ do not approve this reversing of hours
any more than you.”—“ You dis-
prove the follies of fashion, but still you
follow them, so do all the rest of the
world, and none have the courage to
stem the torrent and alter its course.”

“ “ Let every man answer for himself.
I do not believe that I can stop the
tide with my feeble hands, but I regu-
late my own family by the laws of
reason, as nearly as times and customs
permit me to do.”

“ “ Why, what hours do you keep in
your family ?”

“ “ We breakfast at eight o’clock, or
a little after; we dine at three pre-
cisely, drink tea at six, sup at nine,
and all the family are in bed at
eleven.”

“ “ Pretty well ; but your father dined
at one o’clock.”

“ “ That

“ “ That was on account of the school; otherwise he would not have affected singularity, but have done like other men.” — “ In matters of different nature, but not in right or wrong.” — “ My father was an excellent man; I honour his memory, and imitate him as nearly as I can.”

“ “ I honour his memory also; he was a truly good man.”

“ “ So is our dear friend Mr. Ashford; but he does not affect singularity; he conforms to the manners of the times.” — “ He lives like a farmer; and conforms to their manners; he keeps to their hours and manner of living.”

“ Having got him upon the subject of Mr. Ashford, I said, I could not approve of his appearing in masquerade to a man of his plain and simple manners; it looked like attempting to deceive him; and he owed more respect and

* and even reverence to so good a man
* and so dear a friend.

“ “ You cross me again, William; why
* will you do so ? ”

‘ I took a different view of the subject,
‘ and tried to laugh him out of his af-
‘ sumed character.

“ “ I have seen the head of the austere
‘ Cato,” said I, “ with a face as smooth
‘ shaven as a modern beau, and the
‘ effeminate Heliogabalus with a beard
‘ that must, like yours, have been an
‘ artificial one, for at his years it could
‘ not have been a natural one; he died
‘ under twenty: Think you that he was
‘ more, or Cato less respected for it ? ”—
“ “ What care I for your Cato or your
‘ Heliogabalus? I suppose they con-
‘ formed to the fashion of their times.”
—“ That is all I want to obtain from
‘ you, that you will conform to the
‘ times

‘ times and the country, and appear as
‘ an Englishman to your dearest friend.’

“ So you declare war against my
beard?”

“ As an artificial one, as a disguise;
if Nature had given it you I could have
borne with it.”

“ I have a mind to let my own beard
grow, on purpose to see what respect
you will pay to it.—I give way to
your reasoning in regard to Mr. Ash-
ford: but stop there.—By G—— I
will appear to the Stanmores in what-
ever form it shall please me!”

“ I give way in my turn, and I am
thankful for your compliance.”

His compliance after all was un-
gracious, and he had clouds upon his
brow all the remainder of the day.
From these traits you will observe, my
beloved, that my Arthur, like other
men, has lights and shades in his
character,

‘ character, and that the greatest gifts
‘ are tempered with alloy. I will now
‘ wish you good repose, and go to my
‘ own. Heaven bless you and your
‘ babes, prays your own

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT.’

Nov. 3d. (Fourth letter.)

WILLIAM BARTLETT to LOUISA his
Wife.

‘ Here we are, dear life of my life,
‘ all sitting round Mr. Ashford’s fire-
‘ side, happy and pleased with each
‘ other. I know you expect a more
‘ minute account of our meeting. From
‘ the day that I had a warm expostula-
‘ tion with Arthur on the subject of the
‘ beard, he gave up his artificial one,
‘ and forbore to shave his own. Young
‘ Arthur was fatigued and unwell on
‘ the road, and we staid a night longer
‘ than we intended, so that Arthur had
‘ a beard

‘ a beard of three days growth when we
‘ arrived at B——. It was to my
‘ mind very becoming to him, which
‘ was the reverse of the other, but he
‘ still preserved his Indian dress and
‘ consequential air and manner. I an-
‘ nounced him to Mr. Ashford, who
‘ gazed at him earnestly. Arthur salut-
‘ ed him respectfully, after the Eastern
‘ manner. He said, “ Surely this can-
‘ not be my Arthur Stanmore ? ” —
‘ “ Yes it is,” said I ; “ he will con-
‘ vince you of it in due time.” — Arthur
‘ kissed him between the eyes, and then
‘ kneeled on one knee and kissed his
‘ hand.—He then took off his turban,
‘ and threw himself into his arms. “ My
‘ patron, my friend, my father, acknow-
‘ ledge your son ! ” — Mr. Ashford then
‘ recognized and embraced him. “ Why
‘ do you thus disguise yourself to me ? ”

“ ‘ “ It

“ “ It is no disguise, sir, it is the dress
‘ I have worn, till it is become the most
‘ familiar to me.”

“ “ To yourself it may, but to your
‘ friends in England it is neither familiar
‘ nor agreeable.”

“ “ They shall see both in their turn.
‘ Bear with me, dear sir, and let me
‘ wear my Indian form first ?”—“ As
‘ you please, sir ; you are welcome here
‘ in either.”—“ Thank you, sir.” He
‘ put on his turban again. “ How does
‘ George Ashford ; I have not yet seen
‘ him ?” Honest George waited till
‘ our meeting was over ; he is the same
‘ modest humble creature he always
‘ was. Mr. Ashford rang the bell, and
‘ in came George. Arthur took his
‘ hand and embraced him. George
‘ gazed at him and seemed to doubt
‘ his identity. “ I saw your brother
‘ Thomas just before I left India,” said
‘ Arthur,

‘ Arthur, “ and I bring you a letter
‘ from him.” George bowed, recog-
‘ nized and thanked him. His wife
‘ did not appear till after supper-time.
‘ She was presented to the guests ; she
‘ gazed at them incessantly, and could
‘ not take her eyes off them.

‘ Surprise wears out by degrees ; so
‘ did theirs, and we were soon familiar-
‘ ised to each other.

‘ Arthur asked many questions rela-
‘ tive to his family : Were they glad
‘ to hear of his arrival ?—Did they wish
‘ to see him ?—Did they expect him ?
‘ Mr. Ashford answered, “ Yes,” to every
‘ question. He bade him name a day
‘ to visit them, and promised to accom-
‘ pany him, as did the rest of us.

‘ He named an early day, and Mr.
‘ Ashford sent word, and prepared them
‘ for our coming.

‘ All

‘ All here desire me to present their
‘ respects and kind wishes, with those of
‘ your affectionate

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT.’

Nov. 7th. (Fifth Letter.)

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT to his Wife.

‘ My heart pays its best acknowledg-
‘ ments to its queen and mistress, for
‘ her dear kind letter of yesterday’s post,
‘ assuring me of the health of all those
‘ most dear to me, and of the safe
‘ arrival of my friend’s children and
‘ servants.

‘ He returns his thanks, with mine,
‘ for your cares for them. He longs to
‘ see you and acknowledge your good-
‘ nes, and I am impatient to conduct
‘ him to you.

‘ I know you will expect a minute
‘ account of Arthur’s first interview
‘ with

‘ with his parents. I had warned Mr. Ashford of his resentment towards them, with our conference on the road concerning them, and begged him to use his influence to soften his mind towards them.

‘ We paid them a morning visit, intending by their behaviour to conduct ourselves toward them in future.

‘ We went in postchaises, but Samuel went on horseback. We were shewn into the best parlour, where Mr. and Mrs. Stanmore received us, with young Isaac dressed in his Sunday clothes. Arthur saluted his father in the Eastern manner; he put his hands to his forehead, and then bowed his body. They stared like people in too great surprise to know how to behave themselves; Arthur enjoyed it. Mr. Ashford took old Stanmore’s hand. “I suppose,” said Isaac, “these two gentlemen

"men are my son's patrons. I thank them for all their favours to him."

' Donald stepped backward to a respectful distance.

"Look at this man," said Mr. Ashford; "have you no recollection of any of his features?"

"No, not the least."—"Nor you, madam?"—"No, sir."

"Are you the father of Arthur Stanmore?" said he. "Yes, sir."—
"Have you any other children?"—
"Yes, sir; two other sons; they are both here present."

"But which is the eldest; — the heir; — the young squire? for whom you have destined three parts of your fortune, while the younger ones are to have the rest, and be qualified, one to be his cashier, and the other his steward?"

“Sir, you are misinformed, they
are both in a way to provide for them-
selves; if you know Arthur you can-
not be ignorant of this.”

“Yes, I do know Arthur, and I
know to whom he is indebted for his
present situation; to this most excellent
man, his best friend, patron, and
father.”

“No more of this,” said Mr. Ash-
ford; “Arthur has been industrious and
fortunate. Mr. Stanmore, try if you
cannot discover your son Arthur in
this Indian gentleman.”—“No, sir,
I cannot find the least resemblance
of him. He is twice the age of Ar-
thur.”

“Now comes his part; Arthur,
take off your disguise.”

He took off his turban, but his
beard was now become a disguise,
except to us who were used to it.

‘Mr.

‘ Mr. Ashford said, “ Mr. Stanmore,
 ‘ this is, indeed, your son Arthur ; I
 ‘ own and acknowledge him, and he is
 ‘ ready to acknowledge and pay duty
 ‘ to you.”

“ “ When I am convinced that this
 ‘ is my son, I will acknowledge and
 ‘ receive him as such.”

‘ Arthur said, “ Brother Samuel, help
 ‘ me to convince my father ; take off
 ‘ my upper garment.” He did so, and
 ‘ Arthur opened his bosom and shewed
 ‘ his natural complexion. He took his
 ‘ arm out naked, and shewed the mark
 ‘ which the tiger had left in his side,
 ‘ and a large mole on the same side of
 ‘ his body. “ Perhaps,” said he, “ my
 ‘ mother may remember this mark.”

“ “ I do remember it,” said she ; “ but
 ‘ I see no other resemblance of my son
 ‘ Arthur ; do you, Mr. Stanmore ?”

“ ‘ Yes, I do in his curling hair,’ said
‘ he, ‘ and in his complexion where it
‘ has not been exposed.’ ”

“ Arthur kneeled to his father ; he
‘ embraced him, and said, ‘ God bless
‘ you, my son.’ ”

“ Arthur called his son to him ; ‘ Look
‘ at this boy, sir, and seek my resem-
‘ blance in him.’ ”

“ Old Isaac took the boy into his
‘ arms, and said, ‘ Yes, I do ; I do see
‘ your resemblance in him. God bless
‘ thee, my child ! I am thy grand-
‘ father.’ ” He then gave him to his
‘ wife, who embraced and acknowledged
‘ him.

“ ‘ This is my first-born,’ said Ar-
‘ thur ; ‘ I have two more ; and if I had
‘ as many as could stand upon an acre
‘ of ground, they should share my favour
‘ and my fortune equally. I would teach
‘ them the old story of the bundle of sticks,
‘ and that, while united, they are invinci-
‘ ble.’ ”

ble." — "Good doctrine, I confess," said Mr. Ashford, "but all men cannot receive it; let us govern each our own family, and make it as happy as we are able."

"Very right, sir," said Arthur; "and I would make all the world happy, if I could."

"I believe you would, cousin Arthur," said I; "let us leave the rest of mankind to follow their own opinions; and allow for others, that they may allow for us."

The young squire was by no means pleased with the remarks of our friend Arthur. I tried to make them understand each other better, but Isaac was sulky still. The old ones seemed to pay him more respect than affection. Arthur told them of his adventure with the tiger, and of his obligations to Donald. He wished his brother

‘ Isaac was married, and had children
‘ to be friends to his. Isaac said
‘ he was not in haste, there was no
‘ time lost. They invited us to dine
‘ with them the third day after. After
‘ this opening, which did not please
‘ me, Arthur assumed an air of freedom
‘ and even gaiety. He said civil things
‘ to all his family, and even to his mo-
‘ ther:—“ Madam, do you want any
‘ muslins, or a piece of chintz for a
‘ gown?”—“ Thank you, sir, I should
‘ like one very well, if it was not too
‘ light and gay for me.”—“ My ware-
‘ house is at Mr. Ashford’s, madam;
‘ we will endeavour to please you.”
‘ She smiled, and her countenance
‘ brightened up.

‘ “ I wish you were married, sir,”
‘ to young Isaac, “ that I might dress
‘ your wife, or your mistress, if you go
‘ a courting.” Isaac bowed awkwardly,
‘ and

‘ and said, “ I thank you, sir.” When
‘ we rose up to go away, old Stanmore
‘ followed us ; he embraced Arthur and
‘ his son, and said he would visit them
‘ soon. He thanked Mr. Ashford for
‘ all his kindness to his son ; our visit
‘ ended better than it promised. I must
‘ bid you adieu for the present !

“ WILLIAM BARTLETT.

‘ Nov. 10th.’ (Sixth Letter.)

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT to his Wife.

‘ Why, my dear Louis, do you ask
‘ me these questions ?—Why do you
‘ not open every letter directed to me ?
‘ Among the ancient Romans, when
‘ the new married wife was carried
‘ home to her husband’s house, she said
‘ to him, ‘ Wherever you are Caius, I
‘ am Caia,’ — shewing that where he

‘ him with my cousin William, who will
‘ superintend his education; but he shall
‘ visit you, sir, if you desire it.”—“ I
‘ certainly do desire it,” said Isaac, “ and
‘ to see the others also.”—“ I will ven-
‘ ture to promise you, uncle,” said I,
‘ “ that they shall visit you once a year.
‘ Arthur shall first pay his duty, and after-
‘ wards the younger ones and their nurse;
‘ but when Arthur is engaged in learn-
‘ ing he must keep to his business; you
‘ shall, however, see him once a-year.”—
‘ “ I consent,” said Arthur, “ but do not
‘ make a slave of him; and, if he hates
‘ Latin as bad as I did, let him lay it
‘ aside; but make him a good English
‘ scholar.” We spent an hour together,
‘ and all parties seemed pleased with
‘ each other. We are going to dine at
‘ Stanmore’s, and at my return I will tell
‘ you what passes. Arthur declares his
‘ intention to be dressed as an English-

‘ man ; he will be shaved ; but he will
‘ either wear a hat, or something to
‘ cover his head.

‘ The new clothes are unpacked ; Arthur
‘ is dressed in a coat of the finest
‘ broad-cloth, and an embroidered waist-
‘ coat ; Samuel in one nearly as hand-
‘ some, but the waistcoat plain.

‘ Mr. Ashford has persuaded Arthur
‘ to leave Donald at home. He said,
‘ “ It is not necessary that he should hear
‘ all that passes between you and your
‘ family.” Arthur consented reluctantly.
‘ We have looked out a piece of chintz
‘ and a shawl for Mrs. Stanmore, and
‘ some muslins for her husband ; a piece
‘ of chintz for young Isaac to give his
‘ mistress when he has got one, and
‘ some muslin for himself. These pre-
‘ sents will insure our welcome. He
‘ made a handsome gift of the same
‘ kind to George Ashford and his wife ;
‘ they

‘ they were ready to kneel down and
‘ worship him.

‘ The carriages are now ready, and
‘ I bid you adieu.’

‘ Friday morning.

‘ We did not return till late last night,
‘ but I will now go on with my account
‘ of yesterday. We were graciously
‘ received; Mr. Stanmore looked Ar-
‘ thur over. “ How now ? ” said he ;
‘ “ what, a new metamorphosis ! are
‘ not you my son Arthur ? ” — “ Yes, sir,
‘ the same. You did not like me as
‘ an Indian merchant, I hope you will
‘ as an English one.” — “ Yes, I do, sir ;
‘ and wish I had first seen you in this
‘ dress.” — “ I am gratified, sir, if you
‘ like me in any dress.”

“ “ Why, Samuel,” said the old man,
“ you are in new clothes ! It is not
‘ more than three months ago that you

‘ had new ones.’—“ It is by my brother’s order,” said Samuel. Arthur came forward : “ Sir, it is my desire that he may never be worse dreft than he now is. I have given orders to this gentleman (my agent) to see that he is supplied with every thing necessary to make him appear as a gentleman ought to do.”

“ You are very generous ; but excuse me if I remind you, that you have a family of your own to provide for.”—“ I thank you, sir, I am not likely to forget it. I shall teach my children Mr. Ashford’s maxim : *The liberal soul shall be made fat ; and he that watereth shall himself also be watered.*—I have found it so.”

‘ Mrs. Stanmore came in, Arthur saluted her ; he called for his bundle, and presented it to her. She accepted it with a smile, and looked more pleasant

sant than I ever saw her. Young Isaac received his present also, which brightened his countenance ; but he looked dissatisfied with himself, when by his eye he compared himself with his brothers. Our presents having secured our welcome, as I expected, we sat down to dinner in good humour with each other. They gave us good cheer, plentifully but vulgarly served up. We were determined to be pleased, and they gave us a hearty welcome.

After dinner, when the wine had opened his heart, old Stanmore thanked Mr. Ashford for his friendship to himself and family, particularly for all that he had done for Arthur, and said he would consult him upon all occasions while he lived : that Samuel was out of his time, and wished to go into business for himself ; and he

‘ he asked whether it would not be
‘ right to let him remain with Mr.
‘ Hilton some years longer before he
‘ should set up for himself.

“ ‘ This requires some consideration,’
‘ said Mr. Ashford. “ I have some
‘ influence with Mr. Hilton, and I would
‘ use it in Samuel’s behalf. Mr. Hilton
‘ speaks highly of Samuel; I am think-
‘ ing that he might be persuaded to take
‘ him into a share of his business for a
‘ valuable consideration. Mr. Hilton’s
‘ son is very young, and it will be a long
‘ time before he can be of any service to
‘ him. Samuel will be his second partner,
‘ and by the time his son is qualified to
‘ succeed him, Mr. Hilton may wish to
‘ retire from business, and Samuel may
‘ be the first partner, and young Hilton
‘ his second; and this may be equally
‘ an advantage to both parties. Con-
‘ sider of this, Mr. Stanmore, and, if
‘ you

‘ you approve it, you may employ me
‘ to negotiate this business.’—“ Sir, I
‘ do approve it, and thank you for
‘ thinking of it. And do you like of
‘ it, Samuel ?”

“ “ Yes, sir, I agree to whatever you
‘ can propose.”

‘ We all gave signs of approbation
‘ to this proposal.

“ “ Now, my friends,” continued Mr.
‘ Ashford, “ I will acquaint you with
‘ my designs : I am going down the hill
‘ of life, and it is time that I should settle
‘ my affairs before I am called away.

“ “ I have four adopted children, all
‘ good and promising : the two eldest
‘ were mine by choice, the two younger
‘ ones were the children of my com-
‘ passion at first, but since of my love
‘ and esteem. It was my intention to
‘ bequeath two-thirds of my fortune to
‘ the two eldest, and the remainder to
‘ the

“ the two younger ones; the circumstances of the elder ones are considerably changed since the time I made this disposition. William inherited a double share of his father’s fortune by the death of his elder brother, he is since married to a woman of large fortune, beyond his expectations, but not above his merit, for the woman did honour to herself who chose William Bartlett for her husband.” I bowed low. “ Arthur has been successful in trade; he has acquired a great fortune by industry and good character. Both of these good young men have separately and unitedly sought me to make no difference between them and the young Ashfords. I know their hearts, and accept their kindness.

“ “ I wish to sell my estate, and to turn all I have into ready money, which

‘ which is most easily divided between
‘ my children. I have offered it to
‘ Arthur Stanmore, and shall be pleased
‘ that it should belong to his posterity.
‘ We have sent for two gentlemen who
‘ understand the valuation of land, to
‘ look over mine and set a price upon
‘ it. I invite you, Mr. Stanmore, to
‘ meet them, and to give us your advice
‘ and assistance on the occasion.

“ ‘ As soon as this business is done, I
‘ shall make my last will, and then I
‘ shall wait the summons.’ ”

“ ‘ Do you mean to leave the farm,
‘ sir?’ ” said old Stanmore.—“ ‘ No, sir, I
‘ mean to be Arthur’s tenant during
‘ my life.’ ”—“ ‘ It is my intention,’ ” said
‘ Arthur, “ ‘ to settle this estate upon
‘ my eldest son here present; but I do
‘ not mean to bring him up to agri-
‘ culture, unless it should be his own
‘ desire. He shall not be an idle man,
‘ but

‘ but he shall choose his own profession.’

‘ Stanmore was gratified by being consulted; his son Isaac did not look pleased. It seemed to me as if he did not like his brother’s estate should be so near him. We fell into conversation on family subjects. The Stanmores insisted upon our staying supper, and we did not come home till past twelve o’clock.

‘ The Stanmores are to be here tomorrow. As soon as this purchase is finished, I shall make a motion to set out on our journey to S——; if they will not give me their company I shall break away and come alone. I will not much longer be absent from my beloved home, and much more beloved wife and children. Believe your own

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT.

‘ Nov. 15th.’ (Seventh letter.)

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT to his Wife.

‘ My dearest, when I open and display before you the noble and benevolent heart of Arthur Ashford, and the exalted and generous mind of Arthur Stanmore, I do this as nearly as possible in their own words. I make them describe themselves, and thus make you as well acquainted with them as I am.

‘ But when I have only to gather up the thread of my narration, and bring it forward towards the conclusion, much business may be done in few words, and “ I will imitate the honourable Romans in brevity.” The Stanmores have spent a day here, and met the gentlemen invited to look over the estate.

‘ The purchase is agreed upon, and Samuel goes to-morrow, with instructions

'tions to Mr. Hilton, to make the
'writings necessary on this occasion.

'I have declared my resolution to go
'home next week, and have urged Ar-
'thur Stanmore to accompany me.
'After some canvassing, this is agreed
'to, and he is to come hither again to
'execute the writings. Mr. Ashford
'has made proposals to Mr. Hilton for
'admitting Samuel into a partnership
'with him. I have invited young Isaac
'Stanmore to visit us, but he is so irre-
'solute that I cannot tell you whether
'he will come or not; the old ones are
'gratified by the invitation, and are in
'high good humour with us all. Ex-
'pect us one day next week, but I can-
'not fix it certainly. I am more im-
'patient as the time draws near that
'will restore to my heart's treasure her
'happy husband

'WILLIAM BARTLETT.

'Nov. 20th.' (Eighth letter).

‘ WILLIAM BARTLETT to ARTHUR
‘ ASHFORD, Esq.

‘ Here we are, my dear sir, all well,
‘ safe, and happy ; nothing but your
‘ company could add to our felicity ; I
‘ perceived your reason for declining my
‘ invitation ; you are equally kind in what
‘ you grant and what you deny ; but we
‘ can at all times accommodate our best
‘ and dearest friend.

‘ Arthur kindly allowed for my im-
‘ patience to get home, and thanked me
‘ for giving him so much of my time.
‘ “ You have an amiable and beloved
‘ wife to receive you,” said he, “ Alas !
‘ so had I once, but that time is past.”—
‘ “ My dear friend, I will not offer you
‘ hackneyed condolence. I will only say
‘ that you do not know all that time
‘ will yet do for you. I trust to that,
‘ and to your own good sense, which
‘ inclines you to receive the relief of
‘ the

‘ the society of those who love and
‘ esteem you.’

‘ “ I do so,” said he, “ and I enjoy
‘ the blessings of it.”

‘ I had long reckoned upon the plea-
‘ sure of introducing my wife and my
‘ friend to each other. He looked on
‘ her with respect and admiration, and
‘ she received him with polite freedom
‘ and cheerfulness. “ You are a happy
‘ man, William. I rejoice in your feli-
‘ city.”

‘ The next day, when we met at the
‘ dinner hour, Louisa was drest, and
‘ received him with more dignity ; he
‘ gazed at her earnestly. “ I began to
‘ think you another stranger, madam ;
‘ but that smile convinces me.” He
‘ took a box out of his pocket, and
‘ bowed respectfully. “ Permit me,
‘ madam.” He took a pair of brace-
‘ lets and put them upon her arms; they
‘ were

' were richly ornamented with diamonds.
 ' She would have declined the gift,
 ' but he insisted upon it.—I said, " You
 ' are too generous, my friend, you dis-
 ' tress us and injure yourself."

' He was absolute and peremptory.—
 ' " I had these trinkets set in London
 ' for your wife before I saw her; and
 ' now that I have seen her, should I take
 ' them from her?—Let us sit down be-
 ' fore the dinner is cold, and say no
 ' more, lest I should quarrel with you
 ' both."

' We sat down to the table, and I really
 ' felt uneasy, but there is no notwithstanding
 ' his arbitrary generosity. After dinner
 ' the children were brought in while the
 ' servants went to dinner; my wife
 ' took the little Olivia into her lap
 ' and caressed her tenderly. Arthur took
 ' her hand and kissed it fervently.
 ' " You that condescend to be a mo-

ther to my child, how can I thank you? Can I do too much to shew my gratitude? — Oh, William! how could you offer to restrain me! — You made me angry; indeed, I have hardly forgiven you now."

" People may over-rate services; say no more on this head, but listen to me.—I have bought some land and added to my farm; there is a pretty cottage upon it, to which I have added two rooms. It is my design to make it a kind of nursery-school for our children. I intend to place an ingenious young man, James Hartley by name, at the head of it. He shall teach them English, and I will over-look both him and them. I shall see them every day, and Mrs. Bartlett will see them frequently.

" We shall keep the younger ones with us, and transplant them out as they grow capable of instruction.

" Olivia

“ “ Olivia and her nurse shall remain here, and my wife will be the sole director of her education. I hope we may one day have a companion of her own sex for her.

“ “ Eastwick will send us a boy or two, and we will have a seminary of education for us and our friends.

“ “ There is a young man who, as they advance in learning, shall be their preceptor; he is now preparing for it. I shall acquaint you from time to time how we go on, and you shall give us your approbation or correction.”

“ “ Say no more, William you are sure of my approbation, provided you do not affront me, by refusing to let me pay for the accommodations of my children.

“ “ My monies are already placed in the funds. I shall make you and Mr. Ashford the trustees for my children; you are to receive the interest, and

‘ to employ it for the service of my
‘ children : I shall tell you from time to
‘ time where I am, and what I am
‘ doing.’

‘ After this we had a contention, in
‘ which neither would give way ; but at
‘ length we agreed to refer it to Mr.
‘ Ashford, and desire him to decide
‘ for us.

‘ I must now explain the cause to you.
‘ Arthur leaves his children in my care
‘ to be boarded and educated, and he
‘ leaves you and me trustees for them.
‘ You must make an arrangement and
‘ calculation of their expences. So
‘ much for board and lodging for eight
‘ persons. So much for clothes, linen,
‘ and necessaries. So much for tuition,
‘ books, and extra expences. All these
‘ must be estimated by the ages of the
‘ persons, as the expences will increase
‘ as they advance in years, from three
‘ years

‘ years to five, to ten, to fifteen, to
‘ twenty-one.

‘ Our dispute is not, “ I will not pay
‘ more,” and “ I will not take less than
‘ so much;” but he is afraid of paying
‘ too little, and I of receiving too much.
‘ You, sir, who know and love us
‘ equally, are qualified to hold the
‘ balance and decide for us both.

‘ It is my wish that Samuel Stanmore
‘ should be added as a trustee for the
‘ children; he will be a proper person
‘ to act for them as they grow up.

‘ When the writings are finished he
‘ is to come and fetch his brother to
‘ your house again, and I think the pa-
‘ rents should be invited to see all
‘ things settled and concluded between
‘ us.

‘ Arthur is resolved to travel; he will
‘ not settle any where, but wants to visit
‘ all parts of the world. He will not

‘ hear any reasoning to the contrary.
‘ He will settle his affairs here first, but
‘ he proposes to leave England in the
‘ Autumn, when it begins to grow cold,
‘ he says, and go into warmer climates.

‘ I send you a letter from my sister
‘ Sarah ; a strange one. I wonder what
‘ that sordid fellow her husband is do-
‘ ing, grasping at every thing. He has
‘ made acquaintance with a man who
‘ will probably cheat him and leave
‘ him ; 'tis no matter, he deserves it. I
‘ will send you the letter. Eastwick and
‘ his wife send their love and duty with
‘ those of your children,

‘ STANMORE and BARTLETT.’

SARAH BARTLETT to her brother
WILLIAM BARTLETT.

‘ My dear brother,
‘ You have deserved my confidence,
‘ and I give it you without reserve.
‘ You always knew Robert better than
‘ I did,

‘ I did, but I was slow of belief, and I
‘ do not blame myself for it; it was my
‘ duty to think the best of him, and I
‘ did so: but the more he got money
‘ the more unwilling was he to part
‘ with it. You would be paid what was
‘ your due; but it was like taking his
‘ blood away from him, and he resented
‘ it as an injury done him.

‘ For some time past he has had a
‘ new pursuit, which I do not know,
‘ nor can find out. There is a tall black
‘ Jewish looking man, who comes here
‘ every evening; Robert goes out with
‘ him and stays several hours. I often
‘ wait supper for him, and when he
‘ comes home he is pensive and seems
‘ in deep meditation. I have asked
‘ him who that ill-looking man is, that
‘ comes here so often.—“ That man,
‘ Sally, is a great philosopher; he under-

‘ stands all the secrets of nature and
‘ of art.’”

“ “ I wonder you should believe all
‘ that he tells you. I think there is
‘ something about him that makes me
‘ shudder. I am afraid he will impose
‘ upon you and cheat you.”

“ “ I put confidence in him, and
‘ think we shall both be obliged to him;
‘ he is my friend, and I desire that you
‘ will treat him as such.”

“ “ I only beg that you will not put
‘ it into his power to hurt you, for mine
‘ and your children’s sakes.”

“ “ Leave that to me, and mind your
‘ family duties.”

“ I have discovered that this man lives
‘ in a cottage at the end of the town,
‘ and my husband goes there every day,
‘ and sometimes twice a-day.

‘ The

‘ The neighbours say, that he is a
‘ conjurer ; I fear that he is an impostor
‘ and a cheat ; people go to him to be
‘ told their fortunes, and to recover lost
‘ goods. I shall have my eye upon
‘ him, and try to find out what they are
‘ after. My children are all well and
‘ promising. My best wishes and prayers
‘ for you and yours.

‘ SARAH BARTLETT.’

We now received letters from James Wilmot and his governor, with accounts of the places they had visited, and of their health and happiness. We had letters also from Mrs. Burdock, complaining of her husband, and wishing to be separated from him. I desired her to employ some other person ; for I did not choose to interfere in matrimonial quarrels.

Samuel Stanmore came over to us in January, and Arthur went with him to B——; he promised to see us again before he left England.

I established my young family at the cottage, set James Hartley at the head of it, and an elderly woman-servant, well recommended, as the housekeeper, and a young one to be under her.

Another letter from my sister Sarah, which I shall copy, and let it speak for itself:

' Dear Brother,

' I shall now tell you all that I know
' of my husband's friendship with Ben-
' jamin Morabec. A young gentleman
' of our school went to this man to have
' his fortune told; he conceived an idea
' of his being a cheat, and he men-
' tioned it to me; I promised to keep
' his secret, and wished him to go again
 ' to

‘ to examine the contents of his apartment, and describe them to me: he did so, and I repeat them to you.

‘ There was a kind of furnace built up in the chimney of the upper room; it had earthen pots all round it, which seemed boiling with liquor in them.

‘ Many books were scattered there, and he copied the title page of one of them, as followeth:—“ Secrets revealed: or, an open Entrance into the Shut-Palace of the King; containing the greatest Treasure of Chymistry, composed by an Englishman, styling himself Eyrenæus Philalethes - Cosmopolita, who, by Reading and Inspiration, attained to the Philosopher’s Stone at 27 years of age. 1645.”

‘ This book was adorned with planets and characters; my young friend had not time to copy them; but he discovered that it contained the theory and

‘ practice of the science of alchymy,
‘ which turned the heads of so many
‘ people in the two last centuries.
‘ Having obtained this intelligence, I
‘ perfectly understood the windmill
‘ schemes that Robert was in pursuit
‘ of. Before he went out after school
‘ he desired me to get him something
‘ good for supper. I suppose, thought
‘ I, alchymy is to pay for it. I should
‘ not be sorry if he was well cheated,
‘ if it does not cost him too much, to
‘ teach him that avarice is its own
‘ punishment. He came home in the
‘ evening sooner than usual and in good
‘ spirits. I took the opportunity and
‘ asked him to give me some money to
‘ lay out for myself and the children ; he
‘ gave me a guinea, and more freely than
‘ usual. “ Sally,” said he, “ I hope to
‘ be able to do more for you than I
‘ have done. I am engaged in an
‘ under-

‘ undertaking that will enable me to
‘ lay aside the laborious business of a
‘ schoolmaster, and hold up my head
‘ as high as that of your proud brother
‘ William.’

“ ‘ I wish you success in all your un-
‘ dertakings, sir; but you should not
‘ reflect upon my brother, for my sake
‘ and your own also: it looks too much
‘ like envy.’ ”

‘ He was angry at my remark, but I
‘ smoothed him over. He recovered
‘ his temper, and spoke mysteriously of
‘ his good prospects. I shall expect
‘ the overthrow of all his fine schemes,
‘ and remain your affectionate sister,

‘ SARAH BARTLETT.’

Arthur Stanmore settled his business with Mr. Ashford; the writings were executed, and the money paid and placed in the funds. A new lease of the estate

to Mr. Ashford for the term of his life. Old Stanmore advanced twelve hundred pounds for his son Samuel, and Mr. Hilton took him into a third partnership in his business. Samuel had in reserve the thousand pounds given him by his brother Arthur, unknown to his father and mother. Arthur and his faithful Donald went a journey to Edinburgh, and still further to visit Donald's family. Mr. Stanmore offered to settle five thousand pounds upon him, and leave him with his friends; but Donald begged and insisted upon going abroad with him, and attending him wherever he should go.

When they returned they went to London again, whence Arthur invited me to come to him. I prevailed upon my wife and her sister to give me their company thither, and we took lodgings for three months. When they were

were tired of London and impatient to return home, I persuaded Arthur to go with us. He persevered in his resolution to go abroad, but he took a tender and affecting leave of his children. Stanmore brought with him from Scotland a youth of seventeen years old, a relation of Donald's, to accompany them to the continent. In the beginning of October I went with them to Harwich, where they embarked in the pacquet for Holland, and I returned to my dear and happy home.

My wife was far advanced in her third pregnancy ; our family were all in perfect health, and I was successful in all my undertakings ; I made Hartley study agriculture, for I intended to have lectures upon it once a week, and to invite the youth of the parish to attend them. I also gave attention to the education and destination of the lower classes

classes of people, which in many places is shamefully neglected. I wished not to make them learned, but to make them virtuous, industrious, and happy. I am going to found a school for them, and I will superintend the scholars and the masters also.

My wife, her sister, my sister Martha, and three others, the principal ladies in the parish, will unite to found and support a school for female children of the same class. The same ladies are forming a plan for supplying lying-in women with necessaries during their month's confinement. When this is further advanced, I shall take notice of it. We shall all unite in serving the poor and virtuous, to the extent of our power and abilities.

A third letter from Sarah Bartlett:

‘ Our philosopher is marched off
‘ without beat of drum: two men as
‘ ill-

‘ ill-looking as himself have carried him
‘ away. My husband was very uneasy
‘ and could not conceal it from me ; I
‘ took occasion to question him, and to
‘ tell him the opinion of others con-
‘ cerning him ; he began to listen to
‘ me, but on the following day he re-
‘ ceived a letter from his Mephosto-
‘ philus, and that has drawn him back
‘ again into the snare. I have begged,
‘ urged, and insisted, till I have made
‘ him shew me the letter ; I have copied
‘ it :

‘ *To Mr. ROBERT BARTLETT.*

‘ My very good Friend,
‘ I have often told you of the dangers
‘ and difficulties to which we, *the verè*
‘ *adepti* are exposed : some of these are
‘ fallen upon me.

‘ We are scattered to and fro upon the
‘ earth, and driven away from the society
‘ of

‘ of our friends. We are tossed up and
‘ down, and as it were pursued by furies ;
‘ nor can we be safe long in any one
‘ place. We travel through divers
‘ countries like unto vagabonds ; we
‘ dare not take upon us the care of a
‘ family, nor dare we abide in a certain
‘ habitation : although we possess all
‘ things, we can use but a few. Men of
‘ knowledge suspect ours ; they suspect
‘ our art, they watch us, they way-lay
‘ us, they betray us.

‘ Two of my partners and myself
‘ (we are twenty in number) went into
‘ the shop of an eminent silversmith,
‘ shewed him a large quantity of silver ;
‘ he melted a small quantity and proved
‘ it ; he then said, “ This silver is made
‘ by art.” We denied it, and seemed
‘ ignorant of his meaning. “ I know,”
‘ said he, “ the silver of England, of
‘ Holland, of Germany, but this is of a
‘ different

' different kind.' We asked him a price, which he refused, and bid us come again on the morrow. We left the silver and the price, and quitted the town immediately.

' In like manner we offered some ingots of gold lately ; the person asked too many questions concerning it ; we brought it away with us, but the suspicion remained ; they are now in pursuit of us, and this obliges me to leave this town for a time ; but I shall return and claim your friendship and protection, and proceed in the great work I have undertaken for your service. In the mean time, I give you the strongest proof of my integrity, by leaving with you my inestimable book to take care of till I return again.

' Let the furnace be kept in an equal degree of heat night and day, and go on with patience and confidence

‘ dence till I return, which shall be very
‘ soon.

‘ Believe and trust your faithful
‘ friend and servant,

‘ BENJAMIN MORABEC.’

‘ I inclose the key of the laboratory.
‘ The thermometer within the chimney
‘ will shew you the degree of heat in
‘ the athanor.’

‘ This letter restored Robert’s con-
‘ fidence in Benjamin, and he was angry
‘ with me for exciting doubts and fears
‘ of the success of his undertakings.

‘ He has hired a boy who goes on
‘ errands for us and others, to sleep in
‘ the laboratory (as he calls it) all night,
‘ and he is to rise every two hours and
‘ attend the fire. I wonder whether the
‘ boy can calculate the time while he
‘ sleeps; for youths generally sleep sound.

‘ You

‘ You shall hear the conclusion of
this business from

‘ Your sister and friend,
‘ SARAH BARTLETT.’

A few days after I received another
letter from my sister :

‘ Dear Brother,
‘ We have another letter from Ben-
jamin, and I have stolen a copy of it.
‘ I think the mask is fallen off. Robert
‘ is silent and sulky upon it; but I believe
‘ he will hold fast the strings of his purse.
‘ I trust that he will:

‘ My good Friend,
‘ I am in a very private lodging in
a narrow lane in London, where I keep
close, and am upon the watch night and
day. There are enemies in pursuit of
me, and, if they should take me, they
will oblige me to teach them my art,
‘ and

‘ and make me practice it for their advantage. What signifies the possession of riches without the power to use them; such is my present situation. I rely upon your friendship and sincerity, and tell you all my troubles and difficulties. Pray send me by the bearer a remittance of fifty pounds;—you have in your hands fifty times the value of it, and I will soon repay it with gratitude and the services of my life. Not doubting your confidence in me,

‘ I am your friend,

‘ BENJAMIN MORABEC.

‘ The bearer of this is Eliab-Saadi, the son of my partner and friend Eliakim.’

‘ Robert was silent; he ate no dinner; he was unwilling to answer my questions of any kind.

‘ In the evening the young man came for an answer to the letter he brought

‘ in

in the morning. I asked whether he intended to answer it? He replied, "Yes, certainly."—"Do you mean to send him the remittance?"—"No."—"What then will you say to him?"—"I will say what is true,—that I have not so much money in the house."—"Will he be satisfied to be so answered?"—"I will say that I cannot sell out of the stocks for him."—"You mean then to break with him?"—"Perhaps not; do not be so impatiently inquisitive."—"How can I avoid it? is not my fate involved in yours?" He went out of the room in anger; but I hope and believe he will not part with his money easily.

Robert did not come home till supper. I learned in the kitchen that he had sent an answer by the messenger that brought the letter, but I could not guess at the contents. He was

‘ was gloomy and silent; he went to
‘ bed before me, he has been in the
‘ same humour ever since; three days
‘ have now passed, and I cannot guess
‘ what the result of this will be; but I
‘ promise that you shall know as soon as
‘ I do; farewell!

‘ SARAH BARTLETT.’

Exactly a week after, I received another letter from my sister:

‘ SARAH BARTLETT to WILLIAM
BARTLETT.

‘ I call upon you now, my brother, for
‘ pity and protection, for advice and
‘ assistance! Poor Robert is severely
‘ punished for his presumptuous thirst
‘ of riches; he is now an object of
‘ compassion, not of resentment.

‘ Lay it aside, my dear William; come
‘ over and see our dismal situation, and
‘ give us comfort under it.

‘ I will

‘ I will relate the circumstances of our distress to induce you. Robert was more attentive than ever to his laboratory ; he rose early in the morning, and went thither before he attended to any thing at home.

‘ Last Monday he rose at five o’clock and went there ; he found the boy asleep, and the fire declining, but not out. He was very angry and concerned, that it was below the degree of heat it was ordered. The boy told him that he could not wake to a minute, and that he might get another servant, for he was tired of it. He came home out of spirits, and resolved to sit up himself the night following ; he did so, and the boy slept in quiet. The next night the boy sat up till daylight, when Robert went to relieve him. The boy was to go home the following night, and he was ordered to

‘ come

‘ come in the morning at five o’clock,
‘ and Mr. Bartlett was to sit up in the
‘ laboratory.

‘ The boy came at the appointed
‘ hour ; he knocked, but there was no
‘ answer ; after repeating it several
‘ times, he came back to our house
‘ and told the servants ; our John went
‘ back with him, and they forced open
‘ the door.

‘ The room was full of smoke and
‘ they could not see till they opened
‘ both the windows and the door. Just
‘ before the chimney lay my poor Ro-
‘ bert, half burnt and half suffocated ;
‘ covered over with fragments of glass
‘ and stone-ware. The fire, as they
‘ supposed, was too great, and these
‘ things had been burst and thrown
‘ about. They went for the apothecary
‘ to our family, who told them the cause
‘ of this dreadful explosion. They put
‘ Robert into a blanket, and brought

‘ him home upon a hand-barrow. He
‘ groaned dreadfully while they put him
‘ to bed, and examined his hurts. His
‘ face is terribly scorched, especially
‘ the right side, and his right ear and
‘ neck; his right hand and arm, and all
‘ that side of his body, both his eye-
‘ brows and his forehead, and the fore-
‘ part of his head. The surgeons can-
‘ not yet pronounce what damage he
‘ has received; they have ordered emol-
‘ lient plasters, and he is rolled up in
‘ them. They order small broth and gruel
‘ to be given him, but at present he can
‘ take nothing. He groans and laments
‘ bitterly, and it pierces my heart to hear
‘ him. Come to us, my dear brother
‘ and advise me how to act. It is ne-
‘ cessary that we should get another
‘ usher immediately, to carry on the
‘ business of the school. Have pity
‘ upon us, and come without delay. I

‘ am almost distracted with grief, and with
‘ shame to think of the cause of it; we
‘ shall be the laughing-stock of the town
‘ and neighbourhood.

‘ Your unfortunate sister, &c.

‘ S. BARTLETT.’

I set out the same evening, travelled all night, and got there the following afternoon. I found the family in great distress, and Robert in a high fever and delirium. Sarah was ashamed as much as concerned; she execrated the old alchymist, his friends, and his partners. Robert took an opiate by advice of his doctors; he had a tolerable night and returned to his senses. He called for his wife, and seemed afraid she should leave him. “ Oh, Sarah! what will become of me?” —“ You are better,” said she; “ you will be better; compose your mind, and all things will come right again.”

"Where is that fellow Morabec?" said he.—"No matter where; forget that you have ever seen him:—he has cheated and robbed you; I always feared it would be so."

"Can you forgive me, Sarah?"— "With all my heart; I pity your sufferings; you have paid too dearly for your credulity." He took her hand and kissed it, but screamed with pain. I came forward; she announced me; he started, and seemed in confusion: "What brings you here?" said he.

"Your accident and illness, sir; your wife desired me to come; to whom else could she complain? I come to offer you my services, both as your brother and your nearest friend."—"Oh! you will despise me; you will triumph over me!"—"God forbid, sir; only tell me how I can serve you." He shrunk under the bed-clothes, and

it seemed that he could not bear the sight of me.

"I will retire," said I, "but will return when he desires it." I did go and my sister did not follow me. I saw her not till dinner-time. She told me her husband was displeased that she should send for me. I said I would keep away till he should send to me; and if he continued mending, I would return home.

I saw the children, and caressed them as I would my own. I offered to take the eldest home with me, but his father forbade it, and was impatient for my departure. I left him with much concern for his obstinate dislike of me, and with apprehensions for his safety.

I desired my sister to let me hear from her once a week. She gave me only melancholy accounts of her husband; he was sometimes better, and then relapsed

relapsed again. Sometimes he was able to crawl about the house, but never able to attend the school. He was altered and emaciated to a great degree, and continually upon the fret. It was three months after his accident that I had this letter :

‘ Dear Brother,

‘ I now write by the express desire
‘ of my miserable husband, to entreat
‘ that you will come to him. His mind
‘ is as much reduced as his body, but
‘ it has taken a turn that is most com-
‘ fortable both to him and me. His
‘ sufferings have purified his heart ; he
‘ has reflected deeply upon the errors
‘ and misconduct of his life past, and is
‘ become a true and sincere penitent.
‘ He feels deeply a sense of his injuries
‘ to you ; he wishes, yet fears to see
‘ you ; he says he is unworthy to stand

‘ in your presence, yet he longs for your
‘ pardon. Oh come then, and speak to
‘ his wounded heart the blessed words
‘ of pardon and peace ! Who knows
‘ the effect it may have upon his health !
‘ that he may recover and be a happy and
‘ useful member of the community, is
‘ the daily and hourly prayer of your
‘ affectionate sister,

‘ SARAH BARTLETT.’

I set out the following day on horse-back, with a servant, and went with convenient speed to the town where Robert dwelt. I left my servant and horses at the inn, and went alone to the house. My sister came herself to the door. “ I
“ was preparing my husband to see you,” said she; “ and every time I heard a ring-
“ ing at the gate, I expected you, and
“ made him expect you. You are
“ the most welcome guest the whole
“ world could send us !”

She

She led me in and embraced me; she then conducted me into the parlour. I think I was never so moved in my life as when the unhappy man, reduced to a shadow, dropt down on his knees and embraced mine with his feeble and trembling hands. I wept over him and embraced him. He said, "Forgive me, "oh forgive an unworthy brother!" "Rise, sir," said I; "I forgive you all "that I know, and all that I do not, "as I wish God to forgive me!"— "Thank you, thank you, dear, dear, sir! "your forgiveness is balm to my heart: "and will you be a friend to my wife "and a guardian to my children? they "will soon stand in need of you."

"I will be a brother to your wife, "and a father to your children. Your "sons shall be brought up with my own "and those of my cousin Arthur. I "have got a seminary ready to receive

“ them. I will consult their genius and
“ inclinations, and they shall choose their
“ own professions, for I will not suffer
“ any of them to be useless members
“ of society. Eastwick will, I hope, send
“ us a boy or two; our children shall
“ love and help each other, and they
“ shall be like the old man’s bundle of
“ sticks: they shall be invulnerable.”

Robert wept greatly, but his tears
seemed to relieve him.

“ I ought to ask Mr. Eastwick’s for-
“ giveness also,” said Robert; “ I
“ hindered him of an excellent wife, and
“ he knows it.”

“ My brother and sister Eastwick send
“ you their love and best wishes for
“ your recovery. If you hindered him
“ of a good wife, you reserved him for
“ one equally good. He is happy, and
“ you have your wishes as I trust.”

“ Oh,

"Oh, sir, she is the best of women !
"I am unworthy of her."

Sarah had been weeping all this time.
"Say no more, my dear Robert ; you
"are more worthy in my eyes than ever,
"and I trust you will every day be
"more so."

"No more in this style," said I ; "com-
"pose yourselves, my friends, and let us
"talk a little like folks of this world." I spoke on many other subjects, but Robert returned to that which I saw plainly was uppermost in his heart. When the hour of returning drew near, he said he felt his heart lighter, and he hoped for a good night's repose ; would I promise to be his executor ? — I said, yes, but not his only one. — Would I name another ? — I would rather not. — There was no other in whom he could trust. At last I named Samuel Stanmore. — He agreed to it, and he would

fend for his attorney the next day. He was impatient to settle his affairs, and then his mind would be easy, and he would think no more of it.

The next day Robert sent for his attorney and made his will. I was made his first executor; Samuel Stanmore the second; and Wilkins, his attorney, the third: it was executed the following day, and given into his wife's custody: it seemed to relieve his mind; he slept better, and seemed to emerge to hope and comfort.

Mrs. Bartlett told me that Morabec the Jew came over one night, and stript the cottage of every thing. He sent for the book, which he called inestimable; she was in doubt whether to return it or not, but she thought it would be removing a stumbling-block out of her husband's way, so the next day she sent it to him. He wrote a letter to Mr.

Bartlett,

Bartlett, reproaching him with destroying his apparatus, and betraying his friend. Sarah burnt the letter and returned no answer. I stayed a week with him, and then returned home. He was loth to part with me, but I gave him all the comfort in my power, and left him much amended both in health and spirits.

I bought a cottage and seven acres of ground in my own village soon after my return home. I added two rooms and an out-house, and fitted it up neatly. I designed it for my sister, in case she should lose her husband, that she might be in the midst of her natural friends, and under my own protection.

Robert languished fourteen months after his accident, and then expired, quite worn out with pain of body and vexation of mind. Eastwick went over
with

with me to comfort the widow, and to attend his funeral. I took the two boys with me, and Eastwick most kindly invited Sarah and her two girls to go to his house, and to remain there till the house I had provided was ready for her reception. I sent for Samuel Stanmore to come over to help me to settle his affairs, and to regulate his family.

Robert Bartlett's will was just and prudent. He left the whole income of his fortune to his wife, till his children should come of twenty-one years of age; but as they came of age they should receive five hundred pounds, to set them out in the world, and the remainder at the death of their mother in equal proportions.

In case his wife should marry again, her whole fortune should be returned to her, and his own should go to his
children

children as they came of age: but she might dispose of one half of her fortune in case she had other children; if not, the whole should go to her surviving children.

He left a hundred pounds to each of his executors.

A year's wages to each of his servants.

Twenty pounds to the poor of the parish.

He was buried decently without ostentation. We put a neat piece of marble into the church with the following inscription:

"To the memory of the Rev. Robert Bartlett, Master of the Free School of T———, aged 39 years."

"Man walketh in a vain shadow and disquieteth himself in vain: he begetteth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them."

We

We waited on the trustees of the school, and offered the school-fixtures and the household goods and furniture to the gentleman whom they should choose to succeed to the school, at a fair appraisement. They accepted the offer, and named an early day for the election. They chose a man of good character and abilities, who gladly accepted our offer, and found every thing necessary for his undertaking. My sister and her family removed to our village. I took the boys home with me, and the girls went with her to Eastwick's.

We found to our astonishment that Robert had left four thousand five hundred pounds in the public funds; but could not account for more than the half of it. A constant habit of saving creates money faster than is generally believed.

AND now, my dear Children and Wards, you for whom I have undertaken this work, let me offer a few inferences for your use, and for your benefit.

In all numerous families as well as ours, there is a great variety of characters, some worthy of being held out as examples, and others as warnings. It is the duty of parents and guardians to study the genius and disposition of all those who are committed to their charge, and to put them into a situation that will employ them to their own advantage, and to the good of the public. I have seen many good people lost and unhappy, by being placed in situations they were unqualified and unfit for. I have often said, This man is not in his right place—this woman is not where she ought to be.—It seems to me that most of the ridiculous and absurd characters we meet with are owing to the misfortune of a false destination.

It

It has been my endeavour to give my children every advantage I could procure them. Beside the general course of a school education, I had lectures every evening of different kinds. On natural history—on philosophy—on language—on mechanics, and so through all the arts and sciences.

In the summer they travelled over all parts of this noble island; they remarked upon all the counties as they passed through them: the soil, the produce, the trade, and manufactures; the mines and the method of working them; the natural curiosities, ore, fossils, and minerals; the ports, the shipping, the exports and imports, &c.—By these means they gained a general knowledge, which they might afterwards apply to their particular employments. Four years after the death of Mr. R. Bartlett, I buried my dear and worthy friend

friend Mr. Arthur Ashford, at the age of 79 years. He dropt like over-ripened fruit from the tree, without pain or sickness. He died beloved, honoured, and lamented by all that knew him, and his fortune was equally divided between his four adopted children.

I heard from Arthur Stanmore once or twice a year. He went through all the countries he laid down in his scheme, travelling by land to India. Thomas Ashford settled his affairs, and went with him to Golconda.

At the end of five years James Wil-mot returned from his travels an amiable and accomplished gentleman. He married a daughter of lord Aim-worth, settled on his own estate, became a good husband, father, and friend, and an ornament to society.

Mrs.

Mrs. Burdock buried her husband at the end of three years, after which her daughter Fanny went to reside with her, and she lived happily seven years afterward.

Mr. Castleton lived in peace and comfort many years. When he died he bequeathed his fortune to myself and family. I am at this day the happy father of seven children, five sons and two daughters. All my children are promising, and I believe there is not a black sheep among them.

We begin to look forward to business and employment. We propose a mercantile establishment for as many as choose to take a share in it. The foremost are young Arthur Stanmore, Thomas Bartlett, my son John, and Richard Eastwick. Two are scholars, and several choose to be farmers; three sailors,

sailors, and two traders. I have now been married fifteen years. I am happy and fortunate in the best of wives and most amiable of children. Young Isaac Stanmore is married to the daughter of an Indian nabob (as the country people call him). He is rich, proud, full of airs of consequence, and his parents the same. Samuel Stanmore bears an excellent character ; he is half partner to Mr. Hilton, and is going to be married to a woman of good fortune and reputation.

I expect Arthur Stanmore and Thomas Ashford to come home in the autumn season, and, as I hope, to settle in their own country ; Thomas has gained a pretty though not a large fortune, but enough for a moderate man.

Here

Here let us close the scene, lest clouds should arise to cast a shade over the happy prospect.

We have seen a new æra in the history of mankind. God send peace to Europe and to all the world !

THE END.

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